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CONTENTS

	PAGE	REVIEWS:—	PAGE
EVENTS OF THE WEEK	619	A Noble Reprint. By John Hayward	635
ECONOMY	622	Bacon and Shakespeare. By James Thornton	635
UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION. By the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, M.P.	623	Aegean Problems. By H. J. Bell	636
TOTAL ABSTAINERS. By MacFlecknoe	624	A Hundred Years Ago in the Dominions. By Adrian	636
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES. By Erimus	625	The Happy Ant. By Sylva Norman	637
THE ISLINGTON ELECTION: SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. By Our Special Correspondent	626	The Byzantines, El Greco and Cézanne. By John Piper	638
THE TARIFF QUESTION AND THE ECONOMIST.—II. By Professor Jacob Viner	626	New Novels. By Kathleen C. Tomlinson	638
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Economy—Where First? (Economy); Valour (Sir D. M. Stevenson); Women and Universities (Eva M. Hubback); Vivisection (G. F. Shove); The Liberal-Labour Alliance (Henry G. Strauss); Juries (P. H. McCormack); Hospital Waiting Rooms (M. A. Marshall); A Noise Abatement Society (Ainslie Darby and C. C. Hamilton)	628	Film Facts and Theories. By Mark Segal	640
"THE ART OF SINKING." By C. Ernest Fayle	630	BRIDGE. By Caliban	642
A WOMAN'S NOTEBOOK. By Vera Brittain	631	A LITERARY POCKET-BOOK	644
STRANGE INTERLUDE. By Raymond Mortimer	632	THE WEEK IN THE CITY. By Toreador	646
PLAYS AND PICTURES. By Omicron	632		
THE WORLD OF BOOKS:—Three Autobiographies. By Edmund Blunden	634		

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EVENTS OF THE WEEK

M R. SNOWDEN'S speech, and the circulation of the evidence presented by the Treasury to the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance have focused public attention upon one aspect of our central domestic problem. We drew attention to this evidence last week. The gist of it is simply this: that the cost of maintaining the unemployed—on a purely unproductive basis—has now become so great as virtually to nullify the operation of the sinking fund. There can be no debt repayment this year; another such year, and the Unemployment Fund's overdraft will stand at, say, £120 millions—an addition to our national burdens from which it may take us a generation to extricate ourselves. Two events coinciding with the publication of the Treasury evidence are therefore to be noted. One is the rise of the weekly unemployment figures to the record total of 2,624,000. Of these, 1,887,000 are "wholly unemployed," and 624,000 "temporarily stopped"—as a consequence, largely, of industrial disputes. The second event is the reopening of discussions between the Government and the Liberal leaders, with a view to the immediate formulation of a national development programme. The Cabinet, threatened, on the one hand, with insolvency, on the other, with industrial paralysis, may yet be persuaded to accept the validity of Mr. Lloyd George's contentions; and there may, by the time these lines appear, be tangible evidence of this change of outlook.

The Trade Disputes Bill, having passed its Second Reading, has now gone "upstairs" to a Standing Committee, presided over by the redoubtable Mr. John Scurr. Political interest in the Bill has largely waned, which confirms our impression that the enthusiasm shown for it, and the hostility threatened, were both to a considerable extent factitious in character. It is significant also that the Chairman of the Committee has not been armed with any power of closure. The Attorney-General is naturally in charge of the Bill; the official Opposition is led by Sir Kingsley Wood, whose tactics, as usual, are likely to be less solid than entertaining. The Liberal "platoon" on the Committee is commanded by Dr. Burgin. So far, the Liberals have tabled but one amendment—a new and more "water-tight" definition of an illegal strike; and as their members hold the balance in Committee, their subsequent proposals will go far towards determining the ultimate fate of the Bill. We should like to see a serious effort made to bring its provisions more closely into line with industrial realities—with reference, particularly, to the effective regulation of essential services—and amendments to this end may conceivably be tabled. But it is doubtful if the title of the Bill is drawn widely enough to give their framers full scope.

* * * *

The sudden death of Pandit Motilal Nehru is a misfortune which is bound to have a profound effect upon the negotiations now taking place in India. He was not merely a man of great charm and very acute intellect, but he was the only Congress leader, with real political

sagacity, who was trusted by the extremer Nationalists. Like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru he belonged to the small group of Kashmir Pundits, who have played such an important part in Indian history since the war. He would have been the natural link between the returning delegates and Mr. Gandhi, while he could be trusted to exercise a moderating influence on his own son, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru. Now that he has gone, we must expect an earlier and more definite cleavage between the advanced and the moderate sections of the Congress Party. It will be difficult to appreciate from England the relative strength of the two parties, for the extremists will have the publicity, while the moderates will have the tacit support of the large mercantile section, and of those more sober elements in the community who are growing tired of continual disorder. It is clear that the attitude of the Conservative Party is being watched very closely in India. There is a tendency, which is quite understandable, to exaggerate the importance of Mr. Churchill's protest, and the issue of cryptic statements from Conservative headquarters will increase a widespread suspicion that after all these negotiations the Indian politicians will be cheated by a General Election and a reversal of policy. It is to be hoped that Mr. Baldwin will realize that a settlement in India on the lines which he has approved is more important than settling differences within his own party.

* * *

The State Premiers of the Australian Commonwealth have met in conference, and even the abbreviated reports of their discussions issued to the Press suffice to show how grave is the financial position and how little agreement has yet been achieved as to the means of meeting it. Mr. Theodore, the new Commonwealth Treasurer, has stated categorically, "Default in some form is staring us in the face. We must prepare a plan, otherwise default will be inevitable." Mr. Theodore's own plan is not particularly clear from the reports to hand, but it apparently includes as essential features the stabilization of prices at the 1929 level, and the assumption that the banks can create credit at will for the assistance both of industry and the State, as was done in all belligerent countries during the war. This, of course, has merely confirmed the impression that Mr. Theodore's reinstatement was a surrender to the Labour Caucus and its policy of indefinite inflation. Even Mr. Theodore's proposals, however, are much too moderate for Mr. Lang.

* * *

The Premier of New South Wales has his own scheme for Australia's financial restoration. It embraces three main points. All payments to British bondholders are to be suspended until they agree to a drastic revision of Australia's indebtedness. Interest payments on internal bonds are to be reduced to a flat rate of 3 per cent. The gold standard is to be abandoned and a new currency substituted, "based on the wealth which Australia can produce in the secondary and primary industries." Mr. Lang hinted that if the Conference refused to adopt these measures, New South Wales might carry them out, where applicable, on her own responsibility. In face of the scathing criticism of his proposals by Mr. Theodore and by the other State Premiers, Mr. Lang has since modified his tone, and the Conference has passed a compromise resolution, by which the States undertake to balance their Budgets in three years, without specifying the means. The outlook, however, is not hopeful. Mr. Scullin has informed the committee of experts who were called in to advise the Governments that they must confine their report to statistical data and must not make suggestions. Above

all no suggestion for wage cuts must be discussed. As the Commonwealth Arbitration Board has firmly refused to postpone its award making a temporary reduction of 10 per cent. in the basic wage, it will be interesting to see what steps the Commonwealth Government will take. Its energies at present seem to be chiefly devoted to devising means for suspending the natural laws of cause and effect.

* * *

The new yearly instalment of the French programme for naval construction has not yet been presented to the Chamber, but M. Stern, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, has reported the naval estimates, which are apparently about £1,500,000 heavier than those of last year. More significant than this increase, is M. Stern's grave warning about Franco-Italian naval rivalry. He admitted that the "naval holiday" had been observed in the letter, but charged the Italians with breaking it in the spirit; they had laid down no new ships, but had speeded up construction of those already commenced and had, in effect, substantially increased the yearly output. This naval rivalry between France and Italy, which may have repercussions on the programmes of the signatories to the London Treaty, under the "escalator" clause, is of much more concern to Great Britain than the French proposal to build a new "pocket-battleship" as a reply to the "Ersatz-Preussen," and we are glad to note that Mr. Craigie is continuing, on behalf of the British Foreign Office, his mediatory negotiations in Rome and in Paris.

* * *

Recent debates in the Reichstag have ended in a secession of the Nazis, who walked out of the Chamber in a body when the House voted certain amendments in the rules of procedure, directed to limiting the opportunities for obstruction, and an amendment to the Press Law which curtailed the immunities of deputies, and left some fifty deputies (mostly Nazis and Communists) subject to legal proceedings. Herr Stöhr, the Nazi Vice-President of the Reichstag, has declared that they will only re-enter the House when "some opportunity offers of foiling some particularly tricky measure of the majority against the minority." Meanwhile, they will regard all future proceedings of the Reichstag as null and void and will fight "for the soul of the people" outside. How long this secession will last remains to be seen: the Nazis will soon grow tired of haranguing crowds at street corners, if the crowds grow tired of their harangues. But although this latest demonstration is characteristically theatrical and silly, it has its dangerous aspect, for it comes at a time when violent collisions between demonstrators and counter-demonstrators, or between demonstrators and police, are becoming increasingly frequent all over Germany.

* * *

Mr. Arthur Henderson has done the world good service by his exertions in the settlement of a Balkan dispute which has continued for three whole years, and which seemed likely to wreck the prospect of better relations between Greece and Bulgaria. The Greek Government has long urged the submission to arbitration of certain outstanding disputes relating to the exploitation of the Rhodope forest and the damage done to Greek property in Thrace during the war. In addition, they lately revived a dispute now a quarter of a century old and put in a claim for damage done to Greek property during a Bulgarian riot in 1906. The Bulgarian authorities refused to admit all those questions as equally suitable for arbitration, and were supported by a decision of the Hague Court that war damages are recoverable by reparation payments only.

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The negotiations were at a standstill when Mr. Henderson intervened. Under his persuasive influence they have now been resumed with every prospect of success, on the understanding that any question which cannot ultimately be settled by direct negotiation shall be submitted to arbitration.

* * *

The Englishman's boasted right of testamentary freedom, which means in practice his right to leave his estate entirely away from his widow and dependent children, will be threatened by the Wills, Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill which will be coming up for its second reading in charge of Miss Eleanor Rathbone on Friday, February 20th. The Bill is based on the Scottish law—though with important modifications—and, if passed, will bring this country into line with practically every other country in the civilized world, in insisting on a man's making some provision for his family if his means allow him to do so. The Bill proposes that the testator shall be bound to leave the life-interest on one-third of his estate where there are children (and one-half where there are none) to the surviving spouse; provided that in no case his or her share, together with her own property shall bring in an income of more than £2,000. The Bill further provides that one-third of the life-interest of the estate where there is a surviving spouse (and one-half where there is none) shall be left to dependent children whose individual share is, however, not to exceed £300 a year. It will be noted that it does not propose, as in Scotland, that provision shall be made for adult children as well. We hope to publish a short article on the Bill by Mrs. Hubback next week.

* * *

The commercial accounts of the Post Office for the financial year 1929-30 were issued at the end of last week. In view of the magnitude of its operations, the work of the Post Office calls for close and continuous scrutiny. Its surplus for the year under review—after charging interest on capital—was £9.4 millions, arrived at roughly as follows: profit on postal services, £9.7 millions; profit on telephones, £500,000; loss on telegraph services, £800,000. Some comment on these figures may be offered. (1) A profit of £10 millions annually on mail services—a profit, moreover, automatically absorbed by the Exchequer—is virtually tantamount to a tax on communications. Conceivably, in the present state of our finances, such a tax ought not to be disturbed; but the economic effects of restoring the penny post ought surely to be carefully explored. About 6,400,000,000 postal packets are carried annually; the proportion of these packets which carry 1½d stamps is probably not so high as to render a penny post impracticable. (2) Telephone development is still deplorably slow. An increase in telephone income of 7.7 per cent. is very poor, when a drop of 3.4 per cent. in telegraph revenues has also to be taken into account. £10.8 millions was spent in capital development—a niggardly total, whether regard be had to our needs, or to the availability of labour and material. The Post Office sticks obstinately to its theory that demand must keep well ahead of supply. (3) The position of the telegraph calls for drastic reconsideration. £5.5 millions is spent to earn £4.7 millions. The number of telegrams dispatched annually is now barely one per head of the population.

* * *

The Consultative Committee of the Board of Education (known commonly as the Hadow Committee) has followed up its report of 1927, on the Education of the Adolescent, with an equally comprehensive report on the Primary School. This new document,

though it will not have the administrative repercussions of its predecessor, and will therefore not to the same extent excite controversy, is nevertheless of far-reaching importance. It urges that children aged seven to eleven should be treated as a "relatively homogeneous" group, and that the objects to be kept in view in their education are not the "exigencies of examinations," but their immediate well-being. The boss-word, as the Americans say, is happiness. Stress is properly laid upon physical culture, upon craftsmanship, and upon creative opportunities generally. Educational practice lags far behind precept, and it is a far cry from many of our primary schools to the schools so felicitously envisaged in the Report; its publication, nevertheless, is a valuable stimulus to concerted effort.

* * *

The Middlesex Education Authority is conducting in fifteen of its schools a three-months' experiment to ascertain the value of the film as a means of instruction. The venture should prove mainly valuable as a lead to less enterprising authorities. The value of the cinema in education has been demonstrated clearly enough already. In 1925 careful tests were made by psychologists which, Sir James Marchant claimed, "scientifically established the superior value of the cinematograph over other forms of teaching," while in the United States a recent experiment with 11,000 school-children in a dozen cities produced similar conclusions. The truth is that this country is a long way behind others in the use it makes of the film in its system of education. In the United States there are said to be over five hundred firms engaged almost exclusively in the production of films for school use. The Board of Education would do well to compile a catalogue of the films available for schools in England and to establish a film library like that maintained by the Musée Pédagogique in France. And as for many years to come the educational influence of the film (for better or for worse) is likely to be greater in the child's leisure than in his school-hours, the Board might encourage teachers to train "film-taste" in their pupils.

* * *

The date of the Spanish elections has now been fixed as March 1st for the Chamber and March 15th for the Senate. The Cortes, when assembled, are empowered to revise the existing Constitution "within the framework of monarchical institutions which constitute its essence." The rights of meeting, propaganda, and free speech have been restored, the censorship has been lifted, and all towns other than the provincial capitals have been permitted to elect new Mayors in place of those nominated by the late Dictator. As a result of these concessions, the Liberals and Catalan Regionalists, as well as the parties of the Right, will take part in the elections. The Republicans, the Socialists, and the Constituent Group maintain their boycott. They argue that the Cortes now summoned has no power to do anything but re-establish the Constitution of 1876, of which it is an organ; that the pact of 1876 between the Crown and the Nation has already been broken by the Dictatorship, and that it must be confirmed, revised, or annulled by a Constituent Assembly free from any restriction on its constitution-making powers.

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The first number of the *NEW STATESMAN AND NATION* will appear on February 28th. All communications should be addressed to the Editorial and Publishing Offices at 10, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

ECONOMY

THREE has been much confused thinking and much confused talking lately on the subject of economy. In some aspects, the subject is certainly difficult, and we shall not attempt to deal here with the more abstruse features of the problem. It may, however, be useful to point out a few comparatively simple truths which are sometimes overlooked.

First a word should be said about private economy. Quite a lot of people are deeply concerned just now as to the course which they ought to pursue with respect to their private fortunes. The public-spirited gentleman who writes to us this week to complain that his salary is too large is, no doubt, an extreme case. But there are many who are inquiring whether they ought to spend or to save; to economize or to be lavish; to invest in gilt-edged securities or in speculative markets. They want to behave as decent citizens should; but they are uncertain as to the balance of public advantage in these alternative courses.

There is, we think, a plain general answer to all these inquiries. Wise spending and wise investment are both needed by the community. The private citizen will be well advised to consult his own interests—by which we mean the interests of those who are dependent upon him—and not to confuse his actions by attempting through his own individual efforts to alter the trend of trade. The squandering of ten thousand private fortunes would be a mere drop in the bucket of the trade slump, but it would have disastrous reactions on the lives of a hundred thousand people whose welfare was linked up with those fortunes. In a time of difficulty like the present it becomes especially important to observe the ordinary rules of good behaviour—to avoid ostentatious and self-indulgent expenditure, to spend or invest wisely and with foresight, to avoid waste, and so on. Beyond that, we doubt whether there is anything that the private citizen can do to promote a trade revival.

The question of public expenditure is far more complicated. There is, of course, the familiar and important distinction between productive and non-productive expenditure. It may be wise for the State, as it is for the individual business-man, to spend money freely for developmental purposes at a time when strict economy is necessary in all forms of expenditure which yield no return. There is no inconsistency in the Cornish fish-wife who grudges sixpence for her husband's tobacco but is always ready with money for the boat and gear. The term "productive expenditure" is, however, used to describe two very different forms of State enterprise. It obviously applies to such undertakings as the Post Office and the Telephone Service, which may be expected to yield a fair rate of interest upon the capital invested in them. But it is also, not improperly, applied to expenditure upon education, health, rural and urban amenities, and other public services, which do not make any direct money return to the State, but are productive of a happier, healthier, and more intelligent community. It is indeed arguable that, in the long run, expenditure upon such objects as these produces an increased national dividend through a more efficient population.

But it is only in this sense that it is productive. It does not provide the interest and sinking fund for loans. It aggravates the taxation problem.

Between these two distinct types of productive expenditure there are intermediate types, such as expenditure on housing which yields a low rate of interest on capital, expenditure on roads which may be partly secured on the Road Fund, and expenditure on work-schemes for the unemployed which may prove no more costly and much more wholesome than the dole. It may be reasonable to advocate any of these enterprises, while still calling for economy, but we ought at least to be clear as to what we mean by "productive expenditure," and what we mean by "economy."

A popular journalist wrote in the *EVENING STANDARD* on Tuesday that:—

"The most obvious and the least difficult way of effecting economies is the reduction of the number of Civil Servants and the regrouping by amalgamation of the spending departments. The Labour Ministry is scandalously overstaffed. Since the war an army of inspectors and supervisors and tax-collectors have sprung up, who, unless diminished, will eat us out of house and home."

This is nothing but pernicious nonsense. Everybody ought to know by now that it is not the salaries of Civil Servants which make the Departments expensive, but the work which the Civil Servants are called upon to do. If it were not for the able and devoted services of that army of inspectors and supervisors, the cost of the social services would be much higher than it is; and if it were not for the tax-collectors, they would never be paid for.

The truth is that a thorough and impartial survey of the whole field of public expenditure reveals only two items in which there is scope for substantial economies: armaments and unemployment relief; and in both these matters there are vital considerations of public policy involved, which make it unwise to approach them from the standpoint of economy.

Disarmament, as Mr. Arthur Henderson well said in his admirable speech on Monday night, should be a matter of collective agreement, of world action, and that is of much higher importance than a reduction of armaments by one Government acting by itself. The world has advanced to a stage in which it has become practical politics to summon a Disarmament Conference, and to appeal to the public opinion of every country to make a real treaty for the permanent limitation and steady reduction of armaments. The great results achieved by the Naval Conference last year encourage the hope that next year will see an even greater advance. We welcome Mr. Henderson's lead in this matter. The issues at stake are far greater than a mere reduction of expenditure. They "go to the root of all that makes human life and human effort worth while."

The other field in which genuine savings might be effected is unemployment relief, but here also there are wider considerations which must be taken into account. We need not repeat what we wrote last week on this subject. It is plain that there are at least dangerous possibilities of the paralysis of industry and the demoralization of considerable sections of the population by the present system of benefits. It is imperative

therefore that drastic reforms should be made, apart altogether from the need for economy.

If, then, we leave armaments and the dole out of account—and it will take many months for an effective saving on either of these to materialize—there is no real scope for economy unless we are prepared to go back on our whole social policy, which we should regard as a disastrous shirking of responsibilities. There is nothing for it but to shoulder our burden as best we may, and to be prepared for another disagreeable Budget. Fortunately, from Mr. Snowden's point of view, the field for investment abroad has become far less attractive during the last twelve months. The danger of a flight from the pound is correspondingly reduced, and it may be possible to put another sixpence on the income tax without disastrous results.

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

BY THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT SAMUEL, M.P.

EFFORTS are being made to persuade public opinion that the proposal now before Parliament, to end the special franchise and representation of the universities, is a step backwards. It is contended that those who support it are sinning against the light; that they ignore the value of education in the conduct of national affairs; that they would deprive the State of the services of representatives of exceptional merit; that they would extinguish such few sparks of independence as still remain in a legislature of partisans; and that all this is to be done wantonly, for no reason other than a desire for party advantage or a pedantic love of uniformity.

I am one of those who support the proposal. To no part of that indictment do I plead guilty. I would ask leave to set out the facts and considerations on the other side.

In the first place, it is certainly not the case, as is alleged, that it is "the great seats of learning" which are to be disfranchised. "The universities," as we ordinarily use the word, do not return these members to Parliament. The residents at Oxford or Cambridge, or wherever it may be, do not meet in conclave, and select some scholarly man from among them to carry the torch of enlightenment to Westminster. The university constituencies are composed of 120,000 men and women, scattered all over the country or resident abroad; a very large proportion country clergymen or schoolmasters; the rest engaged in the other professions, in commerce, in land-owning, or in whatever occupation their life may be spent; few of them in any close touch with the university in which, years before, they had completed their education. Absorbed into the general life of the community, these electors are not a class apart from other citizens, entitled to a separate representation.

When an election is about to be held, the candidates for the university seats are chosen almost invariably by Conservative, Liberal, or Labour Committees, formed from the most active supporters of the political parties among the graduates, resident or non-resident. It is contended that the members, when they are elected, are nevertheless found to be men, as a rule, of exceptional impartiality, enlightenment, or statesmanship, whose services would be very valuable in Parliament, but men of a type unlikely to find access there through the ordinary constituencies. Experience does not support this contention. We may turn back the annals of university representation, and we shall not find the name of a single statesman of the first rank,

until we come to Gladstone's; and he was dismissed from his membership for Oxford as soon as he showed a spirit of independence on matters of Church establishment. If there is one man of our own time who ought to have been sent to Parliament by a university, it is Professor Gilbert Murray—a great scholar, an untiring and able exponent of a cause of the highest moment, involving no party issues. Yet he has been repeatedly rejected by the University of Oxford. (It is an error to suppose, as is sometimes stated, that it was the working of the Transferable Vote which caused the failure of Professor Murray to win one of the two university seats at the election of 1929. He failed because his supporters numbered less than half those who supported the Conservative candidates.) Again, if the principle now advanced were really operative, Mr. Sidney Webb was another to whom it should obviously have applied. An administrator of long experience, a sociologist of world-wide fame, the principal founder of the London School of Economics and Political Science, it might have been expected, on this theory, that the University of London would eagerly have welcomed him as its representative. He was nominated at the election of 1918, and was heavily defeated. Not long after, Mr. Sidney Webb entered the House of Commons by the votes of a constituency of Durham miners.

It would be invidious to examine the claims of the university members in the present Parliament. But if Lord Hugh Cecil is cited as an example, universally accepted, of a valuable type of member, let it be recalled that he was first elected, and sat for many years, for the very ordinary constituency of Greenwich. If Mr. John Buchan is mentioned as another, it may be remembered that he himself assured the House of Commons, in the recent debate on this subject, that, so far as he was concerned, he had no personal interest in the matter, for if his present constituency, the Scottish Universities, were abolished, he believed he would soon be returned for another. No doubt he was right.

It is said that in days when Science has increasing claims upon the gratitude and the support of the State, it would be both ungenerous and foolish to close the avenue to Parliament which admits her strongest champions. Once more experience is the test, and it does not substantiate that claim. If anyone were to ask who, in our generation, had been the most active and the most efficient advocates of the recognition of scientific education and research as an integral part of our national organization, the names would at once spring to mind of Haldane, Fletcher Moulton, and Balfour. Not one of these was a university representative.

Other contentions are advanced which need a brief reply. The fact that some ten thousand, or more, of the university electors are permanently resident overseas is given as a reason for continuing this franchise; it is urged that it keeps that number, at all events, in touch with the affairs of the old country. I would suggest that it is a reason to the contrary. I fail to see any ground on which a merchant, or a planter, or an administrator, permanently living in some distant part of the Empire or in a foreign country, should be entitled to vote, and by proxy, in the elections to the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Merely because he is of British birth, and had passed through one of the universities in his youth, he is granted this remarkable privilege, while his neighbours, doing similar work and living in similar circumstances, have no such rights. Of all the anomalies attaching to this franchise, this is indeed the most indefensible.

It is urged, as a minor point, that the present Bill preserves exceptionally the representation of the City of London; why, then, should it not preserve the representa-

tion of the universities as well? The Government's proposal, it may be answered, with regard to the City may be good or bad, but in any case it is not an analogy. The Bill does not allow anyone to cast two votes at a general election, one in the City and one elsewhere. If a City elector chooses to vote there for his business premises, he must forgo the use of his vote in the place where he lives. University voting, on the other hand, is plural voting. And it is one thing to make a concession to historical sentiment which involves no exceptional electoral power; to use tradition to justify unequal voting is another.

It is urged, again, that the Lowther Conference of 1917 arrived at a settlement over the whole range of electoral controversies, which included the retention, and indeed the expansion, of university representation. It was a compromise between the contending parties, and it is said that the bargain ought not now to be broken for the advantage of one of them. To this it may be replied, first, that a part of the recommendations of that Conference was the establishment of Proportional Representation in most of the borough constituencies, and of the Alternative Vote elsewhere (the former recommendation was unanimous, the latter carried by a majority). Neither has been put into effect. This principle, that the Conference scheme was a whole, to be accepted in its entirety and regarded as sacrosanct, has never been acted upon. Those who advance it ought surely to have made their voices heard, during these last thirteen years, in an insistence at least upon the acceptance of Proportional Representation. And, secondly, it may be replied that no political arrangement of that kind can be considered binding for all time. Each of the great Reform Bills was a compromise, accepted for the time being; each in turn was superseded after a lapse of years.

It is contended, next, that however partisan may have been the representation of the universities hitherto, the conditions are changing; the undergraduates are drawn increasingly from all classes; things will be different in future. This is mere prophecy. It may prove to be so, or it may not. In any case there is no reason why 120,000 persons, or whatever the number may come to be in later years, selected from the rest of the community in this particular way, should be given a privileged place in the constitution. If education, as such, is to be a title to additional political power, then the right way to proceed is clearly that which was advocated by John Stuart Mill—the establishment of what he termed "a graduated suffrage," in which one or more additional votes should be given to citizens possessing certain specified qualifications. Among those classes would have been not only graduates of universities, but also "all persons who had passed creditably through the higher schools," and all members of "the liberal professions." Disraeli embodied a similar proposal in the first draft of his Reform Bill of 1867. If anyone is now prepared to revive and to advocate those schemes, by all means let us argue them on their merits. I do not think they would long survive the discussion. But to retain a franchise and a form of representation which ignores every lawyer, doctor, accountant, administrator, schoolmaster, or minister of religion, who has not been so fortunate as to have passed through a university, is impossible to defend.

If, as some suggest, we ought to change the whole foundation of our electoral system; if we ought to base it, not on geographical divisions, in which each elector is regarded simply as a citizen, with a whole range of varied interests, but upon vocational divisions, in which the economic occupation of any individual is looked upon as the factor which should determine his place in the community (fundamentally a wrong view, I would submit)—but if that is to be the principle, let us at least adopt it

frankly and apply it rationally. Let the idea be proposed, debated, and, if need be, accepted. But until that is done, let us not imagine that there has been established some new and profound reason, drawn from a fresh political philosophy, for retaining this haphazard expedient of twelve representatives in the House of Commons of 120,000 university graduates.

Mark, finally, how great the privilege is. Not only is each graduate granted an additional vote, but that vote is allowed a weight in the elections equal to six ordinary votes. About 50,000 electors make up an average constituency. If the university electors were represented on the same basis, they would be entitled to two members. They have twelve. The principle of "one vote one value" is supposed to be an accepted element in our constitution; but here we have this privileged body of electors, each of whom has one ordinary vote with this swollen franchise in addition. Each of them, therefore, weighs as much in the political balance as seven of his fellow-citizens.

Let men and women of university education use to the full any authority in the nation to which their training and their abilities and the soundness of their judgment may entitle them. It will be all to the good of the country. But let them do it, in the constituencies and in Parliament, by influencing the rest through the wisdom of their advice and the cogency of its expression. They do so now. Education does carry immense weight in the national counsels. But that the law should pick out a special class and endow it with a sevenfold electoral power—that can be justified by no sound principle of politics, and cannot in the long run be of service to the State.

TOTAL ABSTAINERS

(The proposed boycott of the Spanish elections may throw some light on the "Empire" candidate's difficulties in East Islington.)

If your heart is set on the swift removal
Of dictatorial institutions,
If you long to show your complete approval
Of Parliamentary Constitutions,
Like Left-Wing Spaniards, with one consent,
You must hold aloof from the Parliament.
Is that clear?

If you entertain an extreme objection
To the Government's self-appointed mission,
You must cry aloud for a free election
To give a chance to the Opposition;
But when the election comes, I note,
The Opposition must never vote.
It seems queer—

Yet that, no doubt, is the only reason
Why General Critchley is short of workers;
You could hardly count it as less than treason
To fancy the new Crusaders shirkers,
So I guess they've taken a hint from Spain—
If you'd help your cause, from the polls refrain!
Q. E. D.

I've never yet been enthusiastic
For good Lord Beaverbrook's proposition
(It needs an intellect more elastic
To swallow blindly each new edition);
But if the Crusade has come to stay,
I'm willing to help it—the Spanish way.
Wait and see!
MACFLECKNOE.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

THE Second Reading of the Electoral Reform Bill produced a handsome majority for the Government and a really first-class speech from the Prime Minister. Mr. MacDonald has not seemed so happy for a long time, and dealt very effectively with Sir Hilton Young. The latter was far the best of the speakers against the Bill, but he should have learnt before now the peril of quoting the Scriptures in the presence of Ernest Brown. Ernest always knows how the passage continues, and is apt to point the moral the other way.

* * *

The only other event of the week was a very silly one—to wit, an all-night sitting. One never quite knows how these farcical tests of endurance come about. This time it seems to have been somehow like this. Tories wanted an extra day for Report on Land Utilization, because the longer this measure occupies the floor of the House the longer the Committee Stage of the Electoral Reform Bill will be delayed. Dr. Addison could not promise it, but would see what progress we could make that night. Tories naturally determined to make as little progress as possible, and concentrated on the large-scale farming clauses with grim pertinacity. Once midnight is passed Government supporters retaliate with "Very well; you have made us miss the last train and the last tram; our next serious engagement is breakfast. Carry on with the war!"

* * *

Result a multitude of unimportant divisions, several futile efforts to report progress, very few even passable speeches, and tempers on all sides increasingly frayed as the morning hours went by. Only Dr. Addison and Major Attlee remained cheerful and courteous to the end.

* * *

There are several morals to this painful story. First, constant repetitions of the motion to report progress should be further restricted. Could not the mover be made to give security for costs, or to stand breakfast all round in case of defeat. Secondly, an all-night sitting without Winston or Philip Snowden is like an egg without salt. And, finally, the Tory member who "spied strangers" was well advised. The less the public sees of its representatives on these occasions the better.

* * *

My friend Professor Guggenheim, of Jena, has pointed out to me that all the essential steps in the progress of the Trade Disputes Bill are foreshadowed in the play of "Hamlet." If the following extracts are a fair sample, Shakespeare would seem to have had strong anti-Union prejudices.

* * *

Second Reading.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (*aside to the SOLICITOR*):

"This vile deed

IV. 1

We must with all our majesty and skill
Both countenance and excuse."

(*aloud to the House*) "That it might please you
to give quiet pass

II. 2

Through your dominions for this enterprise
On such regards of safety and allowance
As therein are set down."

MR. BIRKETT: "But is this law?"

MR. CHURCHILL: "Marry, this is Miching
Mallecho. It means

mischief . . . cut his throat!"

SIR J. SIMON: "Levies, which to him appeared
To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack"

(N.B.—The Professor says that "Polack" is
obviously corrupt and should be read as
"Public.")

A SOCIALIST (*in the gallery*): "I eat the air
promise-crammed." III. 2

*While the Division is being taken Party leaders
speak their thoughts aloud.*

MR. MACDONALD: "To be or not to be; that is the
question."

MR. BALDWIN (*on Islington*): "Caviare to the
general!!" II. 2

"He hath popped between the Election and
my hopes." V. 2

MR. LLOYD GEORGE (*on Printing House Square*):
"The Time is out of joint. O cursed spite!" I. 5

* * *

Committee.

("A certain convocation of politic worms
as you go upstairs into the lobby." IV. 2
They aim at it, IV. 4
And botch the words up fit to their own
thoughts.)

New definition of intimidation (moved and carried).

"Who (a) calls me villain (b) breaks my pate
across III. 2

(c) Plucks off my beard and blows it in my face

(d) Tweaks me by the nose (e) gives me the
lie i' the throat

As deep as to the lungs."

* * *

Report.

A LIBERAL MEMBER: "I hope we have reformed
that indifferently." III. 2

SIR J. SIMON: "O reform it altogether!"

* * *

Third Reading.

MR. CHURCHILL: "Dead for a ducat dead!" III. 4

* * *

House of Lords.

"Seek . . . i' the Other Place." IV. 2

* * *

On Friday a Bill for the Establishment of a National Living Wage was introduced by Mr. Maxton, and supported by Mr. Kirkwood and Miss Lee—a fine combination of ability, vigour, and sincerity. The fact that the proposal was in present circumstances not fit for the Statute Book does not necessarily condemn it. A private member's Bill dealing with a large principle can only be a skeleton, and generally depends upon other reforms which he cannot bring within its scope. In this case those reforms would include *inter alia* the elevation of Mr. Snowden to Another Place, and the introduction of a certain amount of Relativity into Economic Science. Neither of these conditions need be set down as ultimately impossible. To deal only with the second; there are doubtless some absolute limitations upon the size of the pool upon which Mr. Maxton would have to draw for his Living Wage, but can we be satisfied that we have those limitations cut and dried? Some which have great potency to-day, such as the relation of the pool to the supply of an irrelevant commodity like gold, appear to the present writer to be in the nature of habits rather than of laws. He could not, however, have voted for the Bill. There has been so much public disillusionment as the result of discrepancies between political theory and practice, that it is better that only those should join in such a demonstration who see their way clear to its realization within a reasonable time.

* * *

Certainly the visions of the Left Wing are more attractive than the prejudices of the main body. On Monday evening the Minister of Transport found himself assailed with genuine but inexplicable fury from the benches behind him because he had dared to appoint Traffic Commissioners in strict accordance with suitability to the post, and without reference to possession of other means of livelihood. It is extraordinary that such a principle should have needed any defence, but Mr. Morrison is to be congratulated on the

firmness of his stand, and the completeness of his assumption of personal responsibility.

* * *

Committee and Report had exhausted most of the available eloquence on the Land Utilization Bill, and Third Reading opened somewhat wearily. But the Liberal Party had kept its best wine till the last. Miss Megan Lloyd George improved even upon the standard of her memorable maiden effort. There was more in this speech than mere charm of delivery. It rested upon a solid achievement—the admission of the agricultural labourer to the benefits of an agricultural Bill. This was her work and that of her fellow Liberals in Committee. Let the agricultural workers remember.

ERIMUS.

THE ISLINGTON ELECTION SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

IT is difficult to give a coherent account of the startling events which have taken place in Islington this week. I have been able, however, by pertinacious inquiries to elicit the following facts.

At 4 a.m. on Tuesday, Mrs. Leah Manning, the Labour Candidate, received a telephone call from Lord Beaverbrook's second housemaid asking her to see Brigadier-General Critchley, the Empire Crusade and United Empire Candidate, immediately. This she consented to do, and in a few minutes the General arrived, accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook's gardener. The General hastily explained that his sole object in coming forward as a candidate was to strike a smashing blow for Great Britain and the Empire at the Conservative Party. It had come to his knowledge, however, through the vigilance of Lord Beaverbrook and the perspicacity of Lord Rothermere, that Mrs. Manning was also opposing the Conservative Party. He thought it most unfortunate that the anti-Baldwin vote should be split, and he was perfectly willing to withdraw if Mrs. Manning would give him an assurance in writing that her policy was to strike a smashing blow for Great Britain and the Empire at the Conservative Party. The Labour Candidate could not, of course, deny that that was her policy, and eventually she wrote a letter in that sense which the General carried off in triumph to Stornaway House. There Lord Beaverbrook anxiously awaited him, and after reading Mrs. Manning's letter, his Lordship dictated to the General a suitable reply, agreeing not only to withdraw from the contest, but to place the resources and newspapers of the Beaverbrook and Rothermere Parties entirely at the service of the Labour, Empire Crusade and United Empire Candidate. This was dispatched immediately to Mrs. Manning, and delivered in person by Lord Beaverbrook's cook.

Half an hour later, however, a new thought seems to have occurred to Lord Beaverbrook, and, hastily summoning a stenographer, he dictated a letter and entrusted it to his valet with instructions to get it signed by Mrs. Manning in time for publication in the noon edition of the evening papers. The letter, I understand, ran as follows: "This is one in the eye for old Ramsay."

I now come to the strangest part of one of the most mysterious episodes in our political history. Despite the urgent terms in which Lord Beaverbrook's message was couched, and notwithstanding the fact that it was delivered by Lord Beaverbrook's own valet, Mrs. Manning firmly refused to sign, on the ground that a repudiation of

Mr. MacDonald's leadership had formed no part of her understanding with General Critchley.

To say that Lord Beaverbrook was thunderstruck would be an understatement, but, thinking that he was the victim of the well-known irrationality of a sex unaccustomed to the splendid traditions of our public life, he quickly recovered his equanimity and sent for General Critchley. But he was now to receive a still greater shock. Incredible as it may seem, the General confirmed Mrs. Manning's interpretation of their contract, and flatly refused to depart from it. In these circumstances, Lord Beaverbrook had, of course, no alternative but to repudiate General Critchley and Mrs. Manning, and to find another candidate.

Thus it was that the late edition of the *EVENING STANDARD* on Tuesday was able to announce the adoption at Islington of Admiral Crichton, the anti-Labour, anti-Conservative, Empire Crusade and United Empire Candidate.

LATER.—Admiral Crichton has just told me in his breezy sailor fashion that he is "dropping all this nonsense about the Empire" and concentrating on "striking a smashing blow at the Conservative and Labour Parties."

STOP PRESS.—Admiral Crichton has repudiated Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere and is standing as the anti-Beaverbrook, anti-Rothermere, anti-Empire, anti-Conservative, and anti-Labour Candidate. In a special interview he states that if he can secure the votes of all those who share his antipathies, he is certain to be returned by a large majority.

THE TARIFF QUESTION AND THE ECONOMIST*

II.

FOR short-run protection, that is, protection devised to take care of emergency or at least temporary conditions, a better case can be made out than for protection as a permanent policy. Most important in this connection is the famous and ancient "infant industry" or "educational tariff" argument for protection. If temporary protection will bring into being an industry which otherwise could not have become established in the face of competition from mature and financially strong foreign industries, and if this infant industry offers reasonably good prospects that after a period of not too prolonged nursing it will not only be able to get along without subsidy but will offer to the nation some extra advantages in the form of cheap commodities, or favourable conditions of employment, or profits beyond the average, then such protection is a good investment for the nation. Some economists would even concede that such temporary protection should be afforded to industries whose weakness is not that of infancy but of the second childhood of senile decay, provided that such aid is likely to lead to their healthy rejuvenescence. But the selection of industries entitled to protection on this ground and the establishment of reasonable guarantees that once granted the protection will not be insisted upon as a permanent vested interest requires the exercise of a degree of judgment and restraint which has so far proved to be universally beyond the capacities of tariff statesmanship. Historically the infant industry argument has served chiefly as an alleged justification of what in fact was promiscuous protection extended to industries irrespective of their age or prospects of eventual capacity for self-support.

* The substance of a lecture delivered by Professor Jacob Viner at the London School of Economics on December 9th, 1930.

Similarly, the use of the tariff as a bargaining instrument wherewith to secure the reduction of foreign tariffs is unobjectionable if it works. But their discriminatory character and the uncertainty of their continuance make bargaining duties peculiarly injurious while in actual operation to the country which uses them, and it is very much a matter of doubt whether, in the history of tariff diplomacy, increases of tariffs made preparatory to prospective bargaining have not exceeded the decreases actually made as a result of the subsequent negotiations. On the possibility of the successful employment of tariff bargaining Adam Smith surrendered judgment "to that insidious and crafty animal, the statesman or politician," but I fear that our modern statesmen who have practised tariff bargaining have either been too insidious or not crafty enough to obtain worth while results.

I believe also that, for a free trade country at least, special duties designed to afford protection against temporary dumping by foreign producers are justifiable and practicable. When upon invitation I submitted a statement to this effect, although with elaborate qualifications and limitations which there is not space to reproduce here, to the Geneva Economic Conference in 1927, a Manchester periodical declared that that was a surrender to the fallacies of protectionism which was excessive even for an American professor of political economy! American economists, it so happens, are probably more nearly a unit in their opposition to protection than the economists of any other important country, and my fellow free-trade fanatics in Manchester may perhaps have confused college professors with politicians, a confusion easier for Englishmen than for Americans to fall into. In any case, I remain regretfully convinced that anti-dumping duties are working with reasonable effectiveness in the United States and Canada, that dumping can be so defined as not to include all foreign competition, and that where there are no ordinary duties on imports, anti-dumping duties are a legitimate protection to the industries of a country against a type of competition whose benefits to consumers are transient but whose injury to industry is lasting. If this be treason to the cause, let what is left of the old Manchester school make the most of it.

Finally, there is a type of short-run argument for protection which rests on the absence of the complete economic adjustment which in the routine free-trade reasoning is assumed, generally tacitly, to be present. This argument has been given many forms, but a somewhat novel variant, adapted to the special circumstances now prevalent in England, is now current here and is entitled to detailed consideration by its ingenuity. It is the essence of the long-run free-trade doctrine that whether free trade or protection prevails all of the productive resources will eventually find employment, and that the difference between free trade and protection is not in the degree of employment but in the economic superiority of the kind of employment which prevails under the former. To this it is replied that when there is, in fact, a substantial volume of unemployment, the factors of production employed by the industries brought into existence by new protection will not all be transferred from other employment, but will be drawn in large part from the idle stock of labour and capital. The free trader has always replied that the reduction in imports in consequence of the tariff will cause a corresponding reduction of exports, and the gain of employment in the protected industries will be offset by a corresponding loss of employment in the export industries. As far as it goes, this is a perfectly good reply, to which there is no satisfactory rejoinder. The connection between exports and imports, it is true, is not automatic and

immediate, but there is a relationship and, capital transfers aside, and including both commodity and service imports and exports, it is one of equality. Only if as the tariff is imposed the annual volume of foreign investment is increased by the same amount that imports are shut off will, other things being equal, the exports continue in undiminished volume. Such increase of foreign investment will not be automatic, and there is no reason why it is especially likely to occur. If it were artificially induced by Government subsidy, it might under the assumed circumstances be seriously injurious to domestic employment. In any case, the protectionist usually alleges the restrictive effect of protection on the export of capital as one of its shining virtues.

So far the reasoning, both pro and con, is old and familiar. But now let us suppose that the unemployment in England is not merely a phase of a world-wide depression, but is in large measure peculiar to herself and due to a persistent internal maladjustment of her national economy in the form of prevailing rates of money wages which are at too high a level to permit of the profitable employment of all the available labour. And let us suppose that this wage-maladjustment is the result of a combination of factors, none of which can be gotten rid of, for instance: a premature and excessive currency deflation; a powerful labour movement determined to resist any attempt to lower money wages or to revise working rules; a comprehensive scheme of social insurance which largely shifts to others than the labourers themselves the direct costs of unemployment; an employing and managerial class resting on the laurels of its past achievements and no longer successful in finding technological changes which can convert high money wages into low labour costs; a decline in the foreign demand for the staple English exports.

Restoration of equilibrium by reducing money wages or by increasing the productivity of labour is, by assumption, not feasible. The adoption of protection affords a possible means of doing indirectly what cannot be done directly. As has already been argued, protection will result in a loss of employment for the export trade equal to the gain in employment in the protected industries. But protection will, incidentally, raise the English price level and increase the volume of English purchasing power measured in money. If money wages remain unaltered, prices need not rise on the average as much as purchasing power increases, and the surplus purchasing power available will make possible the domestic sale, and therefore the production, of increased quantities of the products of the sheltered industries and of the export industries. This will bring about a net gain in employment, and the increased production resulting therefrom may more than offset the loss in production resulting from the transfer of productive resources from the export industries to the comparatively less effective protected industries. The evil effects of an excessively high and "frozen" money wage level in a gold economy will thus be partly neutralized through tariff-induced price inflation, a type of inflation which does what ordinary currency inflation would do, but, unlike the latter, does not involve exchange depreciation and a break with the gold standard.

I can find no logical fallacy in this reasoning, but it may, and I believe does, rest on a serious error of judgment. To adopt protection in order to solve the problem of frozen wages seems very much like the current medical procedure of inoculating patients with malaria in order to cure them of paresis. Malaria, however, is unquestionably a less serious disease than paresis, whereas it is extremely doubtful whether protection would be for England a less serious evil than is the amount of unemployment which

protection could abolish. The doctors, moreover, have a specific for malaria, but none has yet been discovered for protectionism once it has gotten a firm hold. Vested interests in the tariff would have developed. The cost of transition back to free trade would appear discouragingly heavy. Once England had seriously departed from free trade, which was established only at the cost of extraordinary efforts on the part of extraordinarily able propagandists, the ability and the will to bring it back when the emergency had passed might not be present. It is so easy in protectionist countries to raise duties or introduce new ones; so difficult to remove or lower them! England's economic plight is serious, and resort to desperate remedies might be warranted if more ordinary and less dangerous ones had already been tried and found wanting. But English politicians and economists alike appear to take it for granted that labour will resist to the utmost any movement toward lowering money wages, even though that might mean higher real earnings, and possibly even higher money earnings and higher real wages, and are becoming receptive to the idea of outflanking labour—in its own interest, of course—by lowering real wages through "tariff inflation." If English labour is as stubborn and blind to economic realities as this presupposes, however, it may be stubborn and acute enough to insist upon wage increases proportionate to the rise in prices. If such should be the case, England would still have its unemployment and a costly tariff to boot!

There are many other considerations which the economist should not overlook, of which I can mention only two. England, unfortunately, has colonies. Whatever may have been the situation in a happier age for imperialist countries, colonies are now, if given the slightest opportunity, determined and unrestrained exploiters, and mother countries, because of the uneasy conscience which in the twentieth century attends the exercise of even the semblance of authority over distant territories, now have inadequate will power to resist the demands of their colonies. If England adopts protection, a large part of that protection will undoubtedly be protection to colonial and not to English industry, but its costs will, nevertheless, be borne wholly by the English Treasury or the English consumer.

A still more important consideration lies in the fact that free trade finds in England its last stronghold, and that in view of the present world trend of tariff policy it is critically urgent at this moment that England stand firmly by her traditional policy. Discouraging to the free trader though the recent course of actual tariff legislation has been, there is underneath and becoming, I believe, more visible every day, a rising tide of reaction against the process of increasing prosperity by suppressing trade. Some at least of the upward revisions of tariffs in the last few years can be attributed to the desire to be in a position to make without undue strain the tariff reductions which the international situation may soon entail. In the United States for the first time in many years there is serious and deep disillusion with extreme protectionism as a guarantee of prosperity. In Germany, also for the first time in many years, there is a growing body of able and determined free traders. In many countries the high protectionists are more definitely on the defensive than they have been since the 1860's at least. The threat that if the rest of the world continues to pursue its evil ways England will do as other countries do might perhaps add reinforcement to the growing sentiment for moderation in tariff matters. But the definite and unconditional abandonment of free trade by England would destroy what basis there is for hope in early and widespread tariff reform.

JACOB VINER.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ECONOMY—WHERE FIRST?

SIR,—Strident voices demand more expenditure or more economy. Surely more expenditure is only justified for necessities and such additional comforts as increase the well-being and so further the productivity of the persons concerned. Expenditure not *necessary* for improved health, vigour, and mental happiness must be looked upon as a form of waste.

To be an effective example Economy, like harder work, must begin at the top. Our higher officials must accept scales of pay and pension and annual leave nearer to those that are considered sufficient in other countries. If the well-to-do expect to play golf on three afternoons a week and to receive high salaries, they cannot be surprised if the working classes demand similar benefits.

In 1919, being then a Field Officer, I discussed with a near relation, a Naval Officer, our financial future. How was the war going to be paid for? We decided that, in spite of the greatly increased cost of living, the income tax would be increased, and that our pay, allowances and pensions, which were already on a higher scale than those paid to officials in France, America, and other countries, would almost certainly be reduced. The combined effect of a reduced pay and increased income tax and the greatly increased cost of living was a depressing prospect; but we made up our minds that that was how we and others earning salaries well above the "poverty line" would have to contribute to the cost of the war.

To our agreeable surprise, my naval relative's pay and pension were practically doubled, and my own pay was very largely increased. This appeared to be the Coalition Government's way of "paying" for the war—a paradox indeed!

In 1919 my pay and allowances were between £500 and £600 a year. I had not thought this sum inadequate in spite of the increased cost of living. Considering that one was only a minor official, subject to a string of senior officials drawing still higher pay, allowances and pension, the remuneration was not too bad, especially as I had contributed nothing towards my pension. Yet in successive stages between 1919 and 1923 my pay and allowances rose from £550 per annum to nearly £1,400. My duties consisted in general of doing very little more than signing, for about four or five hours daily, a number of documents that passed immediately to senior officials with confidential clerks who would speedily detect if I had disobeyed the very definite rules laid down for the guidance of English officials in all Services.

Is it not about time that the senior officials in all our public Services reverted to the pre-war scale of pay, pensions and allowances, particularly in those cases in which the pay and allowances or pension exceed the comfortable figure of £10 per week? Below that line, or at least the line of £6 per week, any reversion to pre-war scale might deprive the head of a family of the means of providing sufficient wholesome food and house-room for his family.

Do any senior officials receive anywhere else in the world such liberal remuneration as in England, liberal out of all proportion to our present means?

Naturally, considering the number of subordinates with working-class relations who work in all Government offices, this increased rate of pay for the senior officials did not pass unnoticed, and has had much to do with the increased demand for higher salaries and wages in less-favoured classes of the community.

Lest it be supposed that I am proposing a measure that would bring special hardship to officials, I would point out that the present pension of Field Officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps is only 4½d. a day in excess of that paid to these officers in 1913. If 4½d. a day is sufficient for a man in this position to meet the 55 per cent. increase in the cost of living and the greatly increased rate of income tax, why is it not sufficient for all those filling other official posts in the Army, Navy, and Civil Services?

This letter is a long one, but the importance of the subject is such that I trust you may grant me the privilege of finding room for it.—Yours, &c.,

ECONOMY.

February 6th, 1931.

VALOUR

SIR,—One of our evening papers reports that "A fox, after a long and exacting chase by the Ynysfor hounds in Snowdonia, eventually took refuge in an old copper mine shaft. Captain J. R. H. Jones, brother of Colonel Bowen Jones, the Master, was lowered with a rope forty feet down the shaft. Locating the fox with an electric torch, he seized it, and holding it by the back of the neck, was hauled to the surface, where hounds made short work of their quarry."

Colonel Bowen Jones no doubt led with conspicuous gallantry the long and exacting chase which ended in the fox, completely worn out, creeping into the old mine. With a courage probably unexampled in the hunting-field, his brother, Captain J. R. J. Jones, entered the mine and faced the ferocious animal alone. Armed only with an electric torch, he sought it out, caught it by the neck, and on reaching the surface threw it to the hounds. And so ended a glorious day's sport. What a group for Mr. Hardiman!

Is it any wonder that the British Army has the reputation of being ever ready to go anywhere and do anything?—Yours, &c.,

D. M. STEVENSON.

February 7th, 1931.

WOMEN AND UNIVERSITIES

SIR,—Miss Brittain suggests that among the English and Welsh Universities (other than Oxford and Cambridge and the London School of Economics) there are instances of discrimination against women lecturers, taking the forms of less pay for the same work and of their enforced resignation on marriage.

I have heard of no such instances, though I have heard it suggested that there is a tendency to appoint men only to posts open equally theoretically to both sexes.

I am glad that Miss Brittain dissociates herself from feminist heresy hunters!—Yours, &c.,

EVA M. HUBBACK.

19, Wellgarth Road, N.W.11.

February 9th, 1931.

VIVISECTION

SIR,—J. H. B. actually asks us to believe that if vivisection were stopped there could be "no further alleviation of human suffering." As though there were not a hundred and one ways—better housing, improved sanitation, regulation of factory and workshop, clearing up sources of infection, fuller provision for the children of the poor, eugenic measures of various kinds, more temperate and cleanly living—in which we could reduce the burden of disease and suffering tomorrow if we had the generosity and self-control to do it. I have heard some pretty rash claims made for vivisection before now, but nothing to equal this suggestion of J. H. B.'s that it is the only means by which human suffering of any kind can be further alleviated. After that, he can hardly expect us to take at their face value his dogmatic and sweeping assertions about its results in particular instances.

In reply to Mr. Innes. Although the results obtained by vivisection are often exaggerated by those who defend it, and are, I believe, sometimes useless and misleading, I do not deny that some discoveries have been made by means of it. On the other hand, I am not convinced—and this is surely the real point—that it is *necessary*, in the sense that medical knowledge could not be advanced by other less objectionable methods.

Doubtless vivisectors as a body are "normal persons with the normal instincts of humanity"; and, of course, we are all responsible for vivisection so long as we allow it to go on. But that doesn't show it to be right. Our normal human nature is responsible for much which is admittedly evil and which men of goodwill are trying to abolish—war, for example.—Yours, &c.,

G. F. SHOVE.

12, Grantchester Road, Cambridge.
February 8th, 1931.

THE LIBERAL-LABOUR ALLIANCE

SIR,—Mr. John Ramage is to be congratulated. Nowhere has the attitude of the Liberal-Labour alliance to Education and to Parliamentary Representation been more admirably expressed than in that delicious sentence of his letter: "The fact is that the educated classes are already heavily over-represented even in the present Parliament."—Yours, &c.,

HENRY G. STRAUSS.

Temple.

February 10th, 1931.

JURIES

SIR,—At a recent criminal trial the Judge in his summing up pointed out that the issue before the Jury was not whether the accused man had committed murder or not, but whether it was proved so that no real doubt remained in any of their minds. His Lordship went on to say that this might sound a verbal distinction, but that it was vital. Of course, in making this remark the Judge had no intention of reflecting on the intelligence of the Jury, but apparently he felt that it was well to warn them against regarding a very important distinction as merely verbal.

This seems to raise a general question which is quite independent of any particular case. Is there not something to be said, in spite of practical difficulties, for a revision of the categories of persons at present exempt from Jury service? As is well known, these include a very large proportion of the best educated classes, whose services as jurors might often be of special value. The ordinary "man in the street" sitting on a Jury may, and often does, possess broad common sense, but this is not always combined with a faculty for careful and accurate thinking, without which no decision in a difficult case can have any real value.—Yours, &c.,

P. H. McCORMACK.

25, Moorgate, E.C.2.

February 9th, 1931.

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOMS

SIR,—Many new hospitals are now being established and reconstructed, and it is hoped that hospital managers and architects will not forget to add to their new buildings a very necessary part of every hospital and what is very often not provided, a waiting-room for patients' friends.

Too often patients' friends are told to "wait there!" "there" being on a door-mat outside a ward-door, in a draughty entrance-hall where no chairs or benches are provided, or in a cold corridor open at both ends and exposed to the cold winds blowing across the hospital backyards with their gurgling drain-pipes and smuts. And the "wait" is also too often the proverbial lengthy time of waiting at hospitals. Patients' friends often come from a long distance and would appreciate somewhere warm and comfortable to wait.—Yours, &c.,

M. A. MARSHALL.

22, Coatham Road, Bristol.

February 7th, 1931.

A NOISE ABATEMENT SOCIETY

SIR,—New York has a successful Noise Abatement Committee; Paris is taking drastic steps to reduce Noise. Sooner or later Britain, too, will be driven to action.

Following the publication of our little book on ugliness and noise, we are forming a Noise Abatement Society. We should, therefore, be glad to hear from anyone in London who would take an active share in helping us to launch the Society.

Professor A. M. Low, the eminent authority on Noise, is Honorary Consultant.—Yours, &c.,

AINSLIE DARBY.
C. C. HAMILTON.

87, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.
February 3rd, 1931.

"THE ART OF SINKING"

EVERY now and then some intrepid explorer sets out in quest of the worst line in English poetry. It is a quest to stir the blood of all true adventurers—superbly useless, patiently endless, and bristling with opportunities for bye-battles with fellow adventurers. The field is so vast that no discovery need threaten us with the disaster of final attainment. There are so many kinds of badness that no two enthusiasts need ever agree on a qualitative test.

The recent publication by Mr. Wyndham Lewis and Mr. Charles Lee of an anthology of bad verse can hardly be said to narrow the field of search. It reminds us, rather, how widely our net must be cast, since (as "The Stuffed Owl" shows conclusively enough) the worst lines are not always to be found in the worst poets. For sheer flatness we need hardly look beyond the less inspired "poetic effusions" of William Wordsworth; for sheer absurdity, the greater as well as the lesser "metaphysicals" are good coverts to draw. To my own mind, the sudden catastrophe of bathos has a sweeter savour than either strained absurdity or steady flatness; I profess myself a devotee of "the art of sinking," and I can imagine no happier hunting ground than the heroic drama of the Restoration.

There, every circumstance is favourable. The artificial loftiness of the sentiments and the frigid "politeness" of the diction give the necessary spur to rhetoric and the necessary check on real poetry. The sententiousness of the heroic couplet itself clothes dullness or triviality with an exquisite incongruity. It was a dangerous tool, too, in the hands of men who were painfully acquiring the technique of a new craft, and whose 'prentice hands, having achieved one half of a distich with tolerable success, were very apt to slip in shaping the second.

There is good hunting, for instance, to be found in the works of my Lord Orrery. Apart from Dryden, he was about the best of the batch. As became a lawyer and a statesman, he had too much good sense to indulge in the frantic rant which exposed Dryden himself to the shafts of "The Rehearsal," and which led "starch Johnny Crowne," when he wanted to be really poetical, to write like this:—

"Come villains, level me against the clouds,
And then give fire, discharge my flaming soul
Against such saucy destinies as those
As dare thus basely of my life dispose;
Then from the clouds rebounding will I fall,
And like a clap of thunder tear you all."
(*"Juliana, or the Princess of Poland," Act IV.*)

Orrery has nothing like this; he invests the expression of "heroic love" and "heroic valour" with an equable decency, even an occasional touch of sincerity, which keep at bay, for pages together, the ever-present tendency of the style to burlesque itself. Yet if he never "rebounds from the clouds" as violently as some of his fellows, he can find the most surprising trap-doors into bathos from his own more pedestrian level.

One must allow, of course, for the change in the values of words. It is hardly fair, perhaps, to quote against Orrery this delightful couplet from "Henry V." :—

"He who resigns his Love, tho' for a King,
Does, as he is a Lover, a low Thing."

That is not, at the best, polished or sinewy verse; but if we can once postulate the whole philosophy of heroic love, and recall the awful significance of the word "low" in that philosophy, we can readily imagine pit, box, and

gallery breaking out into vociferous applause on the first night.

Often enough, however, no such excuse, or qualification, is possible. Again and again polite conversation betrays Orrery to his doom. There is a deadly touch of the prosaic, for instance, in the advice of the confidant in "Tryphon":—

"At my Request, Sir, banish all your Care;
Leave it to me to manage this Affair."

Better still is the speech of the unhappy father whose daughter the usurping King proposes to marry:—

"That Honour you to Stratonic design
Deserves her best Acknowledgements and mine."

How absurd it sounds! Yet, bound as he was to combine loyalty, politeness, and heroics, what else could the poor man say?

Even this yields to the consolation offered to Tryphon when the young lady proves strangely unappreciative of the honour designed to her:—

"But if, when she's your Wife, her Hate endures,
The Trouble, Sir, will be more hers than yours."

How true that is, how comprehensive, and how final! A modern psychological novelist might well adopt the couplet as a motto for his masterpiece.

Turning the pages of my note-book, I come to a passage from "Herod the Great" that has always puzzled me:—

"MARINA. But durst you look on Antipater's Ghost?

"QUEEN. Durst I? You know that I disdain to boast;
But though he were in that dark place of Pain
Which Priests do preach of, and which Poets
feign;
Yet there, were I but sure with him to stay,
I would—I would do more than I will say."

I have never felt sure whether Orrery intended that last line deliberately for a masterly touch of nature and dramatic restraint, or whether he had intended to tell us what the Queen would do, found his invention flagging, and got out of it as best he could.

For Orrery's master-stroke, however, we must turn back to "Tryphon." It occurs in a discussion of some enterprise of pith and moment—killing the King and raising an insurrection, if I remember rightly. The gentleman who is taking on the job combines discretion with his valour, and delivers himself of this eminently reasonable and irrefutable remark:—

"Depend upon't, it shall be done:
But 'tis a Deed so daring and sublime
That to perform it will require some Time."

There must, I am sure, be many things as good as these in Crowne, and Settle, and the rest of them; but the search requires some heroism. Crowne's "Juliana," already quoted, is an affair of lively, bustling absurdity, and I found it quite readable; but "Titus and Berenice, or the Destruction of Jerusalem," in Two Parts (ten solid Acts of it!), was too much for my determination. Some day, however, I must really explore "Caligula," for Crowne grew better as he grew older, if a passage quoted in Chase's "English Heroic Play" is a fair sample:—

"Hell! No, of that I scorn to be afraid;
I'll send such throngs to the Infernal Shade,
Betray, and Kill, and Damn to that Degree
I'll crowd up Hell, till there's no Room for me."

But whatever treasures I may find elsewhere, I shall always cherish a peculiar affection for the dramatic works of my Lord Orrery.

C. ERNEST FAYLE.

A WOMAN'S NOTEBOOK

BY VERA BRITTAIN.

THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT—SYLVIA RATHBONE, M.P.—WOMEN HOUSE-PROPERTY MANAGERS—A STUDENT'S ARMCHAIR

THE publication on Thursday of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's book, "The Suffragette Movement," has made the pre-war activities of the Pankhursts and their followers news once again. I still remember how the militant campaign echoed through my schooldays like the beating of a far-away but persistent drum, which seemed to go on sounding even when its noise was drowned by the blaring trumpets of the War. My school Principals were genuine if discreet protagonists for the vote, and I was already a potential feminist when I first read, in 1913, Olive Schreiner's "Woman and Labour," that "Bible of the Woman's Movement" which was published in February, 1911, exactly twenty years ago. This process of education was completed by the final struggle at Oxford for Women's Degrees, conceded by the University during my last year at Somerville. The pedestrian claims of the Honour School of Modern History were completely overshadowed by this thrilling fight, and the ardent outpourings of my propagandist pen in any columns then open to women students swept away once and for all such remote chances as I ever had of obtaining First Class Honours. Ten years ago, at Oxford and elsewhere, the very mention of suffrage, feminism, and Women's Degrees still provoked amused masculine grimaces, but since Mr. Baldwin, flouting his own past, acknowledged the historic importance of the highly organized and richly financed women's revolution by unveiling Mrs. Pankhurst's statue, it has become fashionable to express appreciation of the dramatic heroisms once evoked by street riots and forcible feedings. When the Six Point Group organized a little suffrage exhibition not long ago, they had the best Press that any women's organization had received for some time.

* * *

This week in London has been rich in reminders of the suffragette epoch. Last Friday, at the Annual Dinner of the Suffragette Club, I sat between Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and the once famous "Charlie" Marsh, who, in 1909, as a very young and beautiful girl, interrupted the Prime Minister at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, by throwing slates from a neighbouring roof. These annual gatherings are among the most vital entertainments to which I am invited; they resemble regimental dinners in their reconstruction of old campaigns by veteran warriors. Over a hundred delighted women must have listened on this occasion to Miss Naomi Jacob's account of her victorious fist-to-fist fight with a local "rough" at a suffrage meeting in Middlesbrough. The following night I went to see "Happy and Glorious," Mr. Wilfred Walter's experimental drama with fifteen acts and only two actors, which is drawing discriminating audiences in ever-growing numbers to the Little Theatre. In this play, which depicts "the unmaking and remaking of a man and woman through two decades of social purgatory," the pre-war activities of the heroine centre round the struggle for the vote. Saturday night's audience appeared to feel nothing but sympathy for her window-smashing exploits. In the comments of a group of young men and women sitting near me, I sensed towards the suffragette movement an attitude similar to that which they afterwards displayed in the war scenes. There was wonder, respect, gratitude, and a half rueful feeling of having missed those "spacious days of glory and of grieving" which periodically illuminated the fear, the tedium, and the disconcerting defeats of both campaigns.

* * *

Perhaps it is because the nine years' flame and fervour of the W.S.P.U. burnt up sufficient vitality for a lifetime that none of the militant leaders have so far entered Parliament. The pre-war non-militant group, however, is there in the person of Miss Eleanor Rathbone, whose Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill is to come up for its second reading on February 20th. Miss Rathbone, who represents the Combined Universities and recently con-

tributed an article on the University Franchise to this journal, was the first Oxford woman to become M.P. She is probably best known as the author of that most revolutionary treatise, "The Disinherited Family," yet at Somerville College, where she would have graduated in 1896 had graduation then been possible for women, she enjoyed the reputation of a profound thinker on metaphysical subjects. Just what influence turned her from the serene pastures of philosophy to the clamorous turmoil of twentieth-century politics, she would probably find as difficult as her contemporaries to explain, but her public speeches sometimes appear to be deprived of that statesmanlike lucidity, so desirable in definitions of policy, by a troubled consciousness of deeper issues underlying ostensibly simple facts. I have heard her Bill criticized by strong individualists on the ground that it interferes unduly with private personal rights. But, whatever the wisdom of attempting to enforce a sense of responsibility by Act of Parliament, Miss Rathbone is at least to be congratulated on the fact that her measure applies equally to the wills of husbands and wives. At present women, mainly because they still regard marriage as an alternative rather than an addition to a professional training, suffer worse than men from the revengeful failure of a partner to provide. But cases are conceivable in which a wife might leave a husband to bring up a larger family than he would have felt justified in producing except on the assumption that her money would help to finance their education.

* * *

The growing reputation of house-property management as a career for educated women will be still further enhanced by the action of the Westminster City Council, which has decided to place the management of a 17-acre area of new property in the hands of two women. These new managers were both trained by Miss M. M. Jeffery, who was once the secretary and housing assistant of Miss Octavia Hill. In 1938 we shall celebrate the centenary of that pioneer woman, whose housing schemes aimed at combining social service with business. Miss Hill was supported in her early efforts by Ruskin, for whom she worked as an artist for many years. In the future she will probably rank with Florence Nightingale as the founder of a great profession for women, to whom poetic justice will be rendered if house and home, so long used as sentimental arguments against the fulfilment of ambition, provide a new field for the exercise of their trained intelligence.

* * *

I expect the majority of students and writers have experienced, like myself, the difficulty of finding a study armchair in which it is possible to work comfortably without being tempted to sleep. I would advise those who share my problem to look at the Orkney armchairs, with their stiff, spreading backs forming an invulnerable protection against draughts, now on show at Country Industries, Ltd., 26, Eccleston Street, Victoria. Many other attractive hand-made goods are to be seen in this little clearing house, where an attempt is being made to find reasonable markets for the country craftsman, but the chairs in particular are worth a cross-London journey.

* * *

Two fixtures of future interest are scheduled for Ash Wednesday, February 18th. The success of "Tantivy Towers" will probably bring a good many guests to Sir Ernest Benn's "Three Quarters of an Hour" At Home at 6.15, when Mr. A. P. Herbert will read extracts from "Ballads for Highbrows" and "The Trials of Topsy."

* * *

The same evening at 8.45 a lecture is to be given at 29, Hyde Park Gate in aid of the Chelsea Babies' Club, when Mr. J. G. Jefferies, the Master of Bryanston, Blandford, Dorset, will make "An Appeal for the Individual Approach to Child Education."

STRANGE INTERLUDE

Lyric Theatre : "Strange Interlude." By EUGENE O'NEILL.

REPETITIOUS, pretentiously phrased, frequently humorless, and indecently devoid of all aesthetic economy, "Strange Interlude" is none the less incomparably the most interesting play now running in London. The first two acts are unnecessary, the last two acts are not only unnecessary but inexcusably bad; and the remaining acts are all five minutes too long. In fact all, and more than all, that Mr. O'Neill takes nine acts and over four hours to say, Ibsen would have said in less than half the time. Yet, seeing the play for a second time, I found myself following it with an intensity of interest such as I have derived from hardly any other serious play by a living author.

Mr. O'Neill starts handicapped by the native verbosity of the Americans, whose conversation is as many-storied as their architecture. And to aggravate his case, he uses the aside and the soliloquy with unprecedented prodigality. In fact he usurps the novelist's privilege of stating his character's thoughts, whereas it is a dramatist's business to make even their concealed thoughts apparent through their acts and words. No one would grudge Mr. O'Neill a licence which Shakespeare sometimes found necessary, but at least half his asides seem to me quite superfluous. But wastefully as the device is used, I believe that it is largely responsible for the fascination which the play exerts; it gives the characters a solidity hitherto only produced by much greater playwrights than Mr. O'Neill.

Another apparent disadvantage of the play is that the author seems to have been reading "Psychoanalysis Without Tears," and the subtle hypotheses of Dr. Freud are reduced in it to rather crude statements. The characters are far too aware of their own fixations, unless the asides are to be taken as expressing their subliminal as well as their conscious thoughts. On the other hand, sex is a subject in which Nature has made almost all of us intensely interested, however devious the forms which our education may make that interest take; and the frank insistence in this play upon varieties in sexual emotion makes it far more absorbing than the average play which, though almost equally concerned with sex, treats it according to a sentimental convention. The Censor deserves our gratitude for licensing "Strange Interludes." This must have required courage. A Broadway chorus-girl's only comment on it was "Well, it's almost as broad as it's long."

An obvious merit of this long-winded play is its concentration. The place is America, the time, the present (a present, one may remark, that lasts for fifty years), but local colour and comment on what is specifically modern are reduced to a minimum. "Strange Interlude" is almost as purely psychological as a tragedy by Racine, and unity of theme is perfectly preserved. Every word spoken has a direct relation to Nina, and the play is the history of one woman and her influence. Moreover, the action imposes itself upon our imagination as a reality. It is not that the people are like actual people, but they move in a consistent world created by the playwright, and one awaits each new development in their intricate relationship with concentrated attention. Mr. O'Neill has an atrocious prose style, but in the intensity of his vision of human life he is indeed a poet. And the most important thing about this play is that it is a poet's work. The subject matter, the unity of theme, the solidity of the characters, all help to retain the spectator's interest despite a thousand faults in execution, but these would not be enough without the force behind them of a high and imaginative seriousness. The better modern dramatists are usually either deliberate propagandists like Shaw, or brilliant conjurors, like Barrie and Guitry. O'Neill seems to grind no axe, nor in his use of the theatre does he value means above ends. After seeing "Strange Interlude" one compares it with plays by

Ibsen and Strindberg. The comparison is, of course, unfavourable to Mr. O'Neill, but is there any other English-speaking playwright whom one could honour with such a comparison?

The performance at the Lyric Theatre is in most respects exemplary. The producer and actors have collaborated to get every ounce out of the play, without ever intruding their personalities between it and the audience. I think, however, that they do not differentiate sufficiently between the dialogue and the asides, and I seem to remember that when I saw the play in America the asides were given in a quick undertone which made the distinction clear. The unobtrusive scenery seems to me perfectly adapted to the play, and I should like to commend to their English colleagues the unselfishness with which everyone connected with this production has consented not to display inappropriate cleverness. I have no doubt that the producer, the scene-designer, and each of the actors could have set London talking about themselves. Instead, they have set it talking about the play. Whatever its fate here, they are an honour to their profession.

RAYMOND MORTIMER.

PLAYS AND PICTURES

"Happy and Glorious." Little Theatre.

THIS play was first produced at the Gate Theatre Studio last December. It deserves a long run, for it has many recommendations, not as a slick entertainment, but as a careful development of an important theme. The theme (as a programme note says) is "the unmaking and the remaking of a man and a woman through two decades of social purgatory," which decades covered the periods of the woman's suffrage movement and the great war. The development is greatly helped by the deliberate limitation of the number of actors to two, and of the scenery to a folding screen with changed panels. This allows fifteen scenes to be played without fuss and bother, and without destroying the connection. The man and woman keep their own (symbolic) personalities throughout, but suggest the different periods and surroundings as well as their own reactions to them by changes of clothes, speech, and all externals. This method is used with great success, and, without being entirely new, it suggests a fruitful line of progress. It unifies various dramatic factors and, as used in this play, has simplicity and clarity. The philosophical idea of the play is founded on the general assumption that "conflict is fruitful." There is a certain inconsistency of treatment, particularly towards the end, but this is to cavil at a fine achievement. The author and Miss Miriam Adams give the satisfying impression that in this, and in no other way, should the play be acted.

"The Rocklitz," at the Duke of York's.

This play failed to hold the attention of its audience purely by reason of its unbridled verbosity. It has excellent dramatic situations, and it was very admirably acted, but modern playgoers simply will not tolerate a spate of words unless they are redeemed by some intrinsic beauty. "George Preedy's" dialogue is stilted and artificial in the extreme, and though at times she seemed to restore life to historic characters, it slipped away from them in the intolerable prosiness of their speech. It is hard to condemn so much earnest endeavour, and if suitably treated I cannot help thinking that this play might well succeed in the clipped medium of the talking film. The story of the all-powerful courtesan is always popular, and it says much for Miss Mary Glynne's charm and skill that she enlisted some sympathy for the unscrupulous Countess Rocklitz. Her subservient Prince Elector, Johann, George IV. of Saxony, is however the more interesting study, rising sometimes in his struggles with his erotic impulses almost to a notable creation. Mr. Dennis Neilson-Terry suggested certainly that this weak voluptuary was no mere figure of Wardour Street. In a cast, where none failed, especially excellent were Mr. Lawrence Anderson and Mr. Felix Aylmer—but one wished them better material. We

were treated in the intervals to the strains of a female quartette who played raised above the orchestra with the limelight shed upon them. When so much was done to draw attention to their graces and proficiency it seemed unfair that the programme gave no clue to their identity.

"Kong," Cambridge Theatre.

One has so often deplored the anachronisms and topical allusions of "period" and "costume" musical plays that it is a little perplexing to have to confess that "Kong" patently suffers from the lack thereof. If this weighty pseudo-Chinese melodrama were a little less conscientious in its authenticity, a little more inspired in its wordy prose (or was it verse?), a little more original in its music—in other words, a great deal more like our old friend "Chu Chin Chow"—the ramifications of its plot would become less tedious, and one would no doubt have a clearer idea of what it was all about. But its lengthy emptiness is taken so seriously and with such pompous ceremony that one can only condole with the cast for having to lend their no mean talents to such a dull display of clap-trap. The sincerity and sheer ability of Mr. Godfrey Tearle, Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Ursula Jeans (whose singing, however, is hardly up to the mark), and Mr. Lyn Harding merely emphasize the play's deficiencies by their shining excellence; and Mr. Asche's production, not forgetting Mr. Aubrey Hammond's costumes and Messrs. Harker's scenery, has much the same effect, though here one realizes that it is the production that keeps one in one's seat at all. War-time standards of popular taste, of course, were much lower than the present, but it seems a pity that no one has written for Mr. Asche (he being apparently wedded to the East) a play that can compare with "Chu Chin Chow" on any but the purely visual plane.

Pola Negri, at the Coliseum.

The "personal appearance" of popular film stars is necessarily accompanied by an inflation of box office receipts, but I cannot help thinking that Madame Negri's faithful public will be a trifle disappointed at the very short shrift she gives them. She is on the stage at the most for ten minutes, and acts a scene in which she displays the heartrending emotions of a woman whose lover is about to be sent for life to Devil's Island. One thing at least must be said to her credit, which is that she did what few actresses are able to do, get the range of one of the most difficult theatres in London. This, at a first attempt, was no mean achievement, but the slender material with which she was working gave her audience no chance to judge what her real powers are as a tragic actress removed from her chosen medium of the screen. She was very ably assisted by Mr. Reginald Tate and a cabaret party of wax mannequins. This is the first time I have had such a deception practised upon me, and I shared the disillusionment of a small boy in front of me who in a sad whisper I heard to say: "Mummy, they're only dummies!" Yet I could not help being impressed by one with a very thin neck and a very large collar who showed complete imperceptibility during tragic happenings. His back was towards the audience, but his concern was mainly with his lady guests whose arms were stretched out in the impossible attempt to reach their cocktails. The rest of the programme was filled with deeds of virtuosity and skill which surely grow more astonishing with every succeeding generation of music-hall performers.

"Africa Speaks," New Gallery Cinema.

"Africa Speaks" was made by two American sportsmen-explorers, and lays its claim to fame as being the first talking-film to be made of the jungle. The fact of its being a "talkie" had advantages and also one considerable disadvantage; though it was a remarkable, even a thrilling, experience to hear the roar of wild lions, the hunting-cries of the Masai, the whirr of the wings of the millions of locusts, one's ears were, on the other hand, inescapably besieged by an almost uninterrupted flow of facetious American jokes and sentimentalities which made up the accompanying "lecture." Why does it so often happen that these "nature" films, generally far more fascinating

than the ordinary acted films, should be marred by the jocular chatter, whether reproduced or *viva voce*, of the intrepid explorers, who would do so much better, from every point of view, to keep up the "strong, silent" legend? But "Africa Speaks" is a very remarkable film, and well worth seeing. Its makers traversed Central Africa by little known routes, and brought back some amazing photographs, not only of pygmies and other strange peoples and of the magnificent Masai, but of every variety of animal and bird. Perhaps the most extraordinary pictures of all are those of an immense swarm of locusts, and of the country before and after their devastating visit.

Paintings by Keith Baynes, Lefevre Galleries.

There is something unassuming about the general atmosphere of this exhibition which on closer inspection seems to be due to a complete absence of flashiness in Mr. Keith Baynes's painting rather than to any tentativeness or uncertainty in handling. These new paintings in fact represent a great advance in certainty and power on this artist's previous work. Individual pictures among them have an insinuating grace, and the flower paintings in particular have a glowing quality which would no doubt continue to grow on a still longer acquaintance. "Harbour, La Rochelle," is full of sensitive feeling, but it is constructed with care and has no superfluities, and other coast scenes and landscapes, such as "The Palm Tree," have a charm which is largely due to selection, carried out with impeccable taste. At the same time, there is a lack of generosity about many of these paintings which will preclude their appealing to some people, and at its most noticeable this lack becomes a definite limitation. The empty square in "Place d'Armes," for instance, and the feeling it conveys, hardly justify the general emptiness of the comparatively large canvas.

* * *

Things to see and hear in the coming week:—

Saturday, February 14th.—

"Good Losers," by Mr. Michael Arlen and Mr. Walter Hackett, at the Whitehall.

Rugby Football: England v. Ireland, at Twickenham. Isolde Menges, Chamber Concert, Wigmore Hall, 3. Westminster String Quartet, Victoria and Albert Museum, 3.

Purcell's "The Fairy Queen," at the New Theatre, Cambridge.

Mrs. M. A. Hamilton, on "The Month in the North," the Wireless, 9.20.

Sunday, February 15th.—

Mr. C. Delisle Burns, on "Science and Philosophy," Conway Hall, 11.

Monday, February 16th.—

"Arms and the Man," at the Old Vic, 7.45.

London Symphony Orchestra, Concert, Queen's Hall. Trade Exhibition, British Industries Fair, London (Olympia) and Birmingham.

Tuesday, February 17th.—

Flecker's "Hassan," at the New Theatre, Oxford.

"Lohengrin," at Sadler's Wells.

"Jacques Decal's "Etienne," adapted by Gilbert Wakefield, at the St. James's.

Mr. Joseph Needham, on "Biology," Morley College, 8.

Suggia Recital, Wigmore Hall.

Thibaud, at the Queen's Hall, 8.15.

Wednesday, February 18th.—

"Who Goes Next," by Mr. R. Simpson and Mr. J. W. Drawbell, at the New.

B.B.C. Symphony Concert, Queen's Hall, 8.

Mrs. Barbara Wootton, Sir Percival Perry, and Professor F. Hall, at League of Nations Union Conference on Wages and Employment, School of Economics, 10.30 a.m.

Thursday, February 19th.—

Royal Philharmonic Society's Concert, Queen's Hall, 8.15.

British Industries Ball, Covent Garden.

OMICRON.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

THREE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

SOMEWHERE in the mind, they say, all incidents and impressions that befall the individual are carried and preserved "in colours fresh, originally bright" until the end; there is a museum of verisimilitudes; the problem is how to refer to them. The attendants are very capricious spirits. They go under the general name of Memory, and the constant epithet for them is Bad. The tint of a sunset, a child practising the piano, a scent of violets or tar or leather, a particular ticking of the clock, may be the signal for them to attack that epithet, and to become so rapidly communicative as to bewilder. But the moments come to an end, and it seems then almost as difficult as before to remember clearly. I do not know that even those who sit down to write their autobiographies obtain any discipline among these zephyrs. There must be whole months when Memory fails to answer the bell.

* * *

If I may describe Lord Sanderson's "Memories of Sixty Years" (Methuen, 10s. 6d.) in a few words, it begins with the past restored to life, and passes into memoranda. At the outset, it looks like being one of those works which nature rather than a particular writer made. It makes one resolve to read "Father and Son" again, immediately afterwards. ("The Diary of my grandfather Henry Furniss for October 1st, 1868, contains the following extract: 'We had a shoulder of mutton for dinner and I got up a bottle of the '47 port.' Then, in the margin, 'My daughter-in-law Mary Furniss gave birth to a son.' I was the son referred to.") But, as public affairs settle more and more upon the autobiographer's page, the quality of the remembrance is affected. More happens,—and less happens. I am not hinting any want of admiration for Lord Sanderson's life-work. It has been truly magnificent. Blindness has often been to those who have been doomed to it an incentive to wonderful achievements; and Lord Sanderson is an example of that triumph. Apart from that, I mean that his book comes nearest to us in its first stages.

* * *

Perhaps an illustration will be better than further critical gesturing. Here is a passage from an early chapter: Mr. Cooper, vicar of Fornett St. Mary from 1858 to 1914: "What he did in his study I was never quite able to make out. I think he read a good deal of theology, and he was constantly working at mathematical problems. He had one very difficult problem in particular which he did when he was getting tired, in order to test the clearness of his brain. If he could do it, he was all right; if he could not, he had a rest. He was an active old man, and had rather an alarming way when he was teaching of jumping out of his chair, snatching up the paraffin lamp off the table, and swarming up a ladder to the top shelves of his bookcases with the lamp in his hand. On other occasions he would seize the lamp, rush from the room—pushing open the swing baize door with the lamp—and charge down a passage containing two steps into the dining-room to find a book, the lamp rocking in his hand as he ran."

* * *

From this venerable torch-bearer, turn to more spacious days: "We settled down at St. James for some time, but constantly went into Cape Town to visit the people to whom we had been given introductions. Arthur Henderson and Lord Buxton had both written about us to Colonel Creswell, the leader of the Labour Party and a member of the Nationalist-Labour Coalition Government, and we saw a good deal of him and his wife. Colonel Creswell took us to some debates in the House of Assembly and introduced us to some of his colleagues. We went with Mrs. Creswell to a morning party given by Mrs. Hertzog at Groote Schuur—Cecil Rhodes's house, now the official residence of the Prime Minister."

* * *

Commemorating a long friendship by supplying a preface to Mr. Robert Blatchford's "My Eighty Years"

(Cassell, 10s. 6d.), Mr. Alexander Thompson humorously maintains that Mr. Blatchford is "utterly hopeless as a journalist." He proves that there are aspects of journalism which never interested the hero of the *CLARION*. Nevertheless, you cannot read many sentences of the autobiography without perceiving the hand that launched all those brilliant newspaper articles. You are in the world where a baby is "the helpless, inarticulate little bundle of pink pulpiness," and where large questions are asked and answered: "Who caused the war? Who threatened war, who preached war, who stood to gain by war, who had been for forty years preparing for war? Germany?" And so another Sabbath passes.

* * *

Mr. Blatchford has (need it be said?) challenged the past to escape him; he has set about it with the fervour and romantic emotion almost of Cobbett; he has "presented" it. Still he claps us on the back, and tells us to smile more, to delight in this human spectacle (except perhaps Germany), to feel what a wonderful world it all is. His memories are pervaded by this gospel. To me, the most spontaneous, and therefore striking, are from his Army years. His Sergeant-Major, for example—but in reporting him, surely even Mr. Blatchford has kept a strict control over the rhetorical? "I can drill you! And I will drill you! I can drill you on a dessert-plate. Damme, I can drill you on a threepenny bit." Mr. Blatchford served with soldiers who had known Inkerman and Sebastopol. On his subsequent militancy, Lord Sanderson speaks: "With regard to the Socialist writers, I remember reading Blatchford's 'Merrie England' when it first came out, but I was not at all impressed by it. In fact, I think it rather shocked and annoyed me. I can now, however, well understand its enormous success and its value as a piece of propaganda, and I am inclined to think that in some respects it is as good a short statement of the case against the existing industrial and social system as has ever been written."

* * *

In point of pure memory, and in its total presence, Mr. Shan F. Bullock's "After Sixty Years" (Sampson Low, 8s. 6d.) stands apart from the two retrospects noticed, but the design itself has helped in this distinction. For Mr. Bullock, who has spent so much of his life in portraying the character of Ulster, limits his review to his early years. Of these, his remembrance is abundant and beautiful; his book, without direct comparison, arouses the reverence to George Bourne of "The Wheelwright's Shop." It is written in a deep spirit of return; the value which people, places, things, and occurrences had in their own day is welcomed back without the shadow of outgrowth. Mr. Bullock was fortunate, after all, in finding himself in a small world where the light was clear, the branch was green, and all made up a delicate picture. I cannot help applauding when he says, "Children, I think, should run wild in their earlier years, like savages almost. Even if their small minds suffer, so that at nine they cannot read and at twelve know more of flowers and cows than of Balbus and his wall; even so, being full of nature's ways, they have something that will last for life and give them that extra inch of stature which some call distinction and others call character."

* * *

Does it depend on the children? Mr. Bullock, I feel, would have received the traits of any environment with a sweet sensibility, an innate serenity. Life, to him, must in any development have turned to music. But mountain, lake, and farm were best; to this day he reads Wordsworth rather than Shakespeare. His book is an elegy for a kind of life that had its great disadvantages, disadvantages called feudal—but there was need of the elegy and he was the man to pronounce it.

EDMUND BLUNDEN.

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REVIEWS

A NOBLE REPRINT

Don Quixote. The Nonesuch Press. Five Guineas. (With 21 Illustrations by MCKNIGHT KAUFFER.)

FINELY printed books, as distinct from the innumerable limited editions designed for the speculator, are still sufficiently rare for the reviewer to overpraise them when they happen to come his way. The Nonesuch Press has been highly praised in the past, and it has now become almost a habit to acclaim its productions in hackneyed superlatives. There is good reason for this, since the standard it has always set itself and endeavoured to maintain is an exceedingly high one. Unfortunately, the standard of criticism has often lagged behind. Typographers, however good, are not above reproach, and Mr. Francis Meynell, the director of the Nonesuch Press, would be the first to admit that he has not always been successful in every respect, that is to say, of type, arrangement of type, paper, binding, illustrations, the many particulars which, though perfect in themselves, may fail to combine together to the making of a perfect whole.

One thing, however, is certain: Nonesuch books are made to be read, and, what is more, they can be read with pleasure. The edition of Shakespeare is an outstanding example of a book, beautiful in every respect, that will survive the strain of incessant use. This and the Nonesuch Bible might have been deliberately designed for that solitary life on the legendary desert isle. Saint Evremond, who wrote with authority on the English drama (which he could not read) without mentioning Shakespeare, and who preferred Gassendi to the Bible, chose to solace his own exile—and recommended his friends to do the same—with one book before all others. Thus to the Comte d'Olonne, going into exile, he wrote: "I recommend to you 'Don Quixote' above all; let your affliction be what it will, the delicacy of his ridicule will insensibly make you relish mirth." If Saint Evremond was born again, and if in his second incarnation he troubled to learn how to speak English, he would have reason to thank the Nonesuch Press, who have just added to their long series of reprints a noble edition of "Don Quixote."

"Don Quixote" was a best-seller in Saint Evremond's day, that is to say, throughout the seventeenth century, and was a favourite book for at least another century afterwards. Since then its popularity has been on the wane, and Cervantes' name is probably honoured at the present time more in the breach than in the observance. Like Rabelais, he has fallen for the time being out of favour, but that his star will rise again in due course there can be no question, for he is one of the few authors who are not for every age but for all time. Our children, perhaps, will bless us for buying, and the Nonesuch Press for producing, an edition of his masterpiece comparable only to the one produced some years ago at the Ashendene Press.

There is no perfect translation of "Don Quixote." Shelton's, a contemporary one, is exceedingly long-winded, and, for many people, uncomfortably archaic. Smollett's is a splendid paraphrase. There remains Motteux's version (and a few others which I have never examined), and it is his that the Nonesuch Press has chosen to print from the revised edition published in 1743: The Seventh Edition, Revis'd anew; and Corrected, Rectify'd, and Fill'd up in Numberless Places from the best Spanish Editions by Mr. Ozell. Who, at the bottom of the pages, has likewise added (after some few corrections of his own, as will appear) Explanatory Notes, from Jarvis, Oudin, Sobrino, Pineda, Gregorio, and the Royal Academy Dictionary of Madrid.

The edition, in two volumes, is limited to 1,475 copies, printed in Goudy Modern on a beautiful Casinensis hand-made paper. The binding of natural niger, which resembles the new Hermitage calf, has been flexibly sewn, so that the book opens perfectly and remains open at any page; it is a fine unpretentious piece of work, one of the best examples of modern binding in leather I have seen.

Mr. Kauffer has added twenty-one illustrations, which have been exquisitely reproduced by the hand-stencil process; of these I am not competent to speak. But they seem

to me to belong properly to the text and to illuminate it. The vagueness of the spatial relations, the subtle perspectives, the subdued over-all washes of pale colours, the heavy masses of shadow from which vaguely and yet vastly emerge the two figures of Knight and Squire, the one lean, the other fat, suggest in their own way the remote, half-real, half-romantic world which Cervantes created in prose. They are a brilliant exception to the ruling taste for elegant frippery in book-illustration.

JOHN HAYWARD.

BACON AND SHAKESPEARE

Shakespeare's Tragic Heroes. By LILY B. CAMPBELL. (Cambridge University Press. 16s.)

Francis Bacon: Concealed and Revealed. By BERTRAM G. THEOBALD. (Palmer. 7s. 6d.)

Shakespeare Authorship. By GILBERT STANDEN. (Palmer. 1s.)

The Approach to Shakespeare. By J. W. MACKAIL. (Oxford University Press, and Milford. 6s.)

In "Shakespeare's Tragic Heroes" Miss Lily Campbell is the first to have studied systematically the many microcosms, anatomies, and humours which abounded in Elizabethan medical and moral treatises. That Shakespeare wrote "Hamlet" with one finger in Timothe Bright's "Treatise of Melancholie" and "Macbeth" with an eye to King James's "Daemonology," is shown by Miss Campbell's analyses of the four tragedies: "Hamlet" as a tragedy of grief, "Othello" of jealousy, "Lear" of wrath in old age, and "Macbeth" as a study in fear. Shakespeare's emphasis is on the passions, and he endeavoured to understand the stories which he handled for the stage, not only by his own emotions, but also by the light of the best authorities of his time, fortified by his own observation of men and women. The Elizabethan age was not all the hearty, boy-like, and adventurous age which those who make play with the King of Spain's beard would sometimes have us believe. The Elizabethans were self-conscious, suspicious, and acutely analytical. Books which set out to explain the physical conditions and moral aberrations of mankind were as avidly read then as works of popular science are now. Shakespeare could not have missed them. They form an important by-way in the literature of the period, and part of Miss Campbell's book amounts almost to an anthology, excellently documented, while the tragedies themselves are analyzed with an Elizabethan intelligence. We are given a convincing description of Hamlet as being of sanguine rather than melancholy humour; his actual melancholy was unnatural to him and was the "sanguine astut" induced by passion.

Miss Campbell's contention that Shakespeare was well read in the theories and philosophies current in his day may be seized upon by some enterprising Baconian to prove that whereas the "Stratford rustic" could hardly be expected to read such a work as Timothe Bright's "Treatise of Melancholie," this would have come naturally to a man of Bacon's parts. He will even go further and by the literal method of putting two and two together and deciphering them he will show that Bright's treatise was in reality one of Bacon's own surreptitious works. But Mr. Bertram Theobald in "Francis Bacon: Concealed and Revealed," is not content with assigning Timothe Bright to Bacon. He would have it that Bacon wrote Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," and also the poems and plays attributed to Spenser, Marlowe, Greene, Peele, and the actor, Shaksper. His proof is that the title-pages of those works and of Bacon's acknowledged works, also inscriptions on monuments, and practically all contemporary references to either Shakespeare or Bacon reveal a series of numbers, arrived at by adding or subtracting the italic words and letters and the Roman words and letters, and that these numbers by means of three cipher systems equal the names of Bacon and of Shakespeare, Spenser, and the rest. Bacon's name and titles appear in various forms and contractions, including "Francis Tudor" and "Prince of Wales," thereby showing he was the surreptitious son of Leicester and the Queen. Bacon was doomed from his birth to be perpetually *sub rosa*. When a poor law student in Gray's Inn and a "briefless barrister," he was evidently engaged in writing diverse plays and poems when he would have been better employed at his books, experimenting in science and alchemy and acquiring his great knowledge while it was still possible to know every-

thing that there was to know. It is mathematically, if not humanly, proved that Bacon, in addition to his own works, wrote those commonly attributed to seven authors, that he changed his name and changed his style as easily as he sharpened his rather worn pen. Allowances are made, it is true, for collaboration ; and Professor Gaw has found in "Henry VI., Part 1," evidences of the handiwork of Shakespeare, Marlowe, Greene, and Peele, four of Bacon's "masks." We are asked to believe that Bacon and other members of the Rosicrucian Fraternity, of which he was the "revered Head," established his authorship by a number of cipher signatures scattered through the title-pages and prefaces of his real and supposed works.

Those who are interested in the Shakespeare-Bacon problem will find Mr. Gilbert Standen's little book, "Shakespeare Authorship," a useful handbook. It summarizes what evidence there is for Shakespeare and the other claimants, while Mr. Standen himself inclines to the theory that the plays were written in concert by a War Propaganda Department with Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, as poet and master-mind, and Francis Bacon as editor. The theory has found adherents among certain military authorities, the purpose of the Department being to encourage patriotism and loyalty during the Anglo-Spanish War, and when we consider the plays which were intended to keep up our spirits during the last war, it would seem that our taste in propaganda has declined. But if the plays were written in conference with politicians or in the spare moments of a philosopher, this surely is no greater miracle than that the "Stratford rustic" should have become lettered. Overmuch sophistication of Shakespeare obscures the plays. Professor J. W. Mackail, in his "Approach to Shakespeare," calls a truce to theorizing. His book contains the substance of lectures delivered at University College, London, and he lays emphasis on Shakespeare as neither theologian nor politician nor moralist, but as working playwright and artist.

JAMES THORNTON.

ÆGEAN PROBLEMS

Minoans, Philistines, and Greeks. By A. R. BURN. (Kegan Paul. 15s.)

THE aim of his book, Mr. Burn says, is "to produce a historical narrative of the fortunes of the Ægean peoples . . . from the end of the fifteenth to the end of the tenth century B.C." This, a transition period of invasion and conquest in Greece, between the fall of Knossos and the decay of the so-called Minoan and the beginning of Hellenic civilization (in art between the debased "late Minoan 3" and the Greek geometric style) is still prehistorical. Apart from a few chance references in Egyptian records of doubtful meaning, knowledge of it is partly archaeological, partly legendary, and consists of inferences made from the objects, mostly of pottery, used by the people, which have been excavated, and from stories told of the time by Homer and later Greek writers.

The book is divided into two parts, "critical" and "narrative," the first intended for students, the second for the "general reader." The critical part, which is short, summarizes and discusses, rather dogmatically, some of the chief problems, such as the authorship and date of the Homeric poems, the value of legends as historical facts, the origin of racial types, and chronology. The "narrative" attempts to make an imaginary reconstruction of the history of the inhabitants of Greece at this time, their relations with other nations bordering on the Ægean, the Egyptians and Hittites, the Trojan War, and the relations of the peoples in the Levant, Philistines and Hebrews.

It is difficult to see the value of this method. Knowledge from Archaeology is slight, seldom more than a simple, unexplained fact, e.g., the destruction of a city at a certain time ; knowledge from the vague and contradictory traditions of later times is admittedly uncertain. The attempts to interpret these independent traditions and make them agree with each other and with the archaeological evidence have defined problems which are still unsolved, e.g., who were the Achaians, what was their relation to the "Minoan" civilization found at Mycenæ and to the later Greeks.

H. J.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN THE DOMINIONS

Early Days in Western Australia. By LIEUTENANT H. W. BUNBURY. Edited by LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. ST. PIERRE BUNBURY and W. P. MORELL. (Oxford University Press, and Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d.)

Up the Country. By EMILY EDEN. (Oxford University Press, and Humphrey Milford. 8s. 6d.)

Chow-Chow. By LADY FALKLAND. (Partridge. 21s.)

Her South African Ancestors. By S. CRON CRONWRIGHT. (Philip Allan. 10s. 6d.)

THE foreign traveller of a hundred years ago had, willy-nilly, infinite leisure, and hence we get these contemporary journals of early days in Australia and India.

Lieutenant Bunbury was the grandson of the cartoonist. He sailed to Australia in 1834 to join his regiment. He became extra A.D.C. to General Bourke in New South Wales, but an hereditary trait caused him to draw a caricature of the general, to which he ascribed his removal to the even more outlandish western coast where a small detachment of soldiers was stationed to protect the handful of settlers. In passing, it is interesting to note, in view of the merciless sentences of transportation that had been lately passed on starving labourers for breaking machines, that once aboard the ship they appear to have had what we should call a "cushy" time. Bunbury sailed as passenger on the convict ship "Susan," and complains, "Our men have not half the comforts that the convicts have ; they are extremely well fed and clothed, and even luxuries found them. Each is allowed two gallons of Lisbon wine during the voyage." On arrival, although at Port Arthur discipline was so harsh that one man killed another merely because he would rather be hanged than remain there, in some places they were at once appointed constables at 1s. a day and a commission on convictions !

But Bunbury's work lay among the early settlers more than the penal colonies, and he was an ideal man for the job. Empire-builder is a term worn tawdry, and it's a pity, because he was one in the best sense. The kind of man who does the spade work and dies unremembered—but for the lucky accident of these letters. It is difficult to believe his youth at the time of writing. We find in him a modesty allied to a sense of responsibility remarkable for one in the middle twenties. His knowledge no less so. He had farming at his finger-tips, and could adjudicate the possibilities and best methods of cultivation of all the land he traversed.

His letters are full of facts which from this distance make interesting reading. Perth consisted of one house. Wheat cost 8s. a bushel, which is more than the English farmer gets to-day. Labour in any way skilled was at present-day prices, fresh meat 1s. 3d. a pound, farm stock dearer than in England at present.

His style has the quiet tone of truth, whether he tells of yield per acre or racial collisions. On one page we read of wild birds, and on another come upon a tale that even Baudelaire's imagination could not equal.

He journeyed far through unexplored Bush alone. He wrapped himself in his coat and lay down quietly to sleep, though "aware that I was completely in the power of the natives if they wished to injure me." At the end of three years he admits to a head of grey hair, and welcomes transfer to India which at first he had been congratulating himself on avoiding.

For the India of the years directly following we turn to the sister of the Governor under whom Bunbury must have served, Emily Eden. Besides this book two novels of hers have also been reprinted recently—"The Semi-detached House" and "The Semi-attached Couple." Has not that a modern flavour? Well, Emily Eden is modern, in style at any rate.

Her letters are full of amusing accounts of balls, durbars, dinners, and all the hot and magnificent ceremonies she and her brother George, Earl of Auckland, endured during their tour of the country. George makes puns, is comically distressed because he can't make his hookah bubble properly : she reads "Pickwick" in instalments in her tent, laughs, feels homesick on Christmas day when "somehow a detestation of the Hindustani language sounding all round came over me." Dickens probably had some-

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thing to do with that. At Simla, as a relief from Oriental pomp the party organizes an English fair—roundabouts, skittles, races, &c., and they all dress up, to the natives' astonishment and awe.

The underlying realities are not discerned—how should they be?—through all the pageant. Her letters reflect something of her brother, good-natured, generous, but lacking the vital grasp so necessary then. The Mutiny was brewing.

Lady Falkland, wife of another Viceroy, recorded her impressions of the country in "Chow-Chow" (also a reprint) to within a few years of the Mutiny. Still all was outwardly calm. Though readable and amusing, compared to Emily Eden her style has a solidity one associates with "Victorianism." Emily speaks of the young English Queen as a "delightful invention." Lady Falkland would never have said that. She has the amateur artist's eye for romantic skies, and some of her chapter endings glow with word sunsets. But in both one detects the tarnish of realism on the glittering fables of the early explorers. "The luxuries of the East," they exclaim with irony. The Taj, Lady Falkland admits, came up to her expectations, but she sees a royal progress as a glorified gipsy encampment. A touch of fog in the hills, though, and they become ecstatic with thoughts of home. Lady Falkland goes out and stands in the rain. She leaves India soon after riding on the first railway there, dreaming of how it would break down caste by compelling natives to travel in carriages together, and so make way for the inculcation of Christianity. Self-government, one gathers, would have sounded odd to the ears of either of them.

"Her South African Ancestors" is more of a family story. The author is the husband of Olive Schreiner. He traces the Featherstone family from pioneer days to the present. Incidentally one gets an impression of the colonization of South Africa and the British Government's share in it, which was, as usual, more a desire to rid itself of surplus labour than to found a dominion. This book, though, is of more limited interest than the others.

ADRIAN BELL.

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Shurets

THE HAPPY ANT

The Life of the Ant. By MAURICE MAETERLINCK. Translated by BERNARD MIALL. (Cassell, 6s.)

WHEN a literary man writes a popular account of a scientific subject there is apt to be trouble. Since he has not been occupied in discovering the facts of which he writes, his mind is free to play with them. Having missed the joys of observation, he must console himself with explanation, speculation, and interpretation. There is a feeling that without this his book would have no reasonable excuse. In actual fact, it might have no personal flavour; and this, to the writer whose bent is literary rather than scientific, means virtually the same thing. The subject may appear objective and remote, yet he contrives to mix himself up with it inextricably. M. Maeterlinck has got into the habit of mixing himself up with insects. He has done it now for the third time. With each excursion the personal plunge is deeper, until there is no saying whether these classics on the bee, the termite, and the ant are to be catalogued as accounts of insect life or revelations of the author's psychology.

Does this imply that M. Maeterlinck has the mind of an insect? The apparent answer is that he would like to have it. And anyone who sees no absurdity whatever in this statement will be free to enjoy every page of "The Life of the Ant," and no doubt wish heartily for the organization, intelligence, and physico-emotional fulfilment of that admirable insect. To the rest of us—less enlightened, or less pessimistic—it may well appear that M. Maeterlinck and his sense of proportion have parted company. In a sense, they have parted company deliberately, to make way for something approaching the broad modern views of science. The relation between the infinitely great and the infinitely small is usually worked out in terms of stars and atoms; M. Maeterlinck prefers stars and ants. The physical connection is not obvious. There is the Hercules cluster, and there are ant-hills; but what of it? If only the extra-galactic nebulæ had been diagnosed as colonies of ants, what a subject M. Maeterlinck would have had! As it is, he can make no headway with the stars, and must return to his old habits by comparing ants with humans.

It is naturally a temptation. The organization of the formicary points to intelligence, just as the ordering of the universe does; and the stupidity and mistakes included in the former make the human analogy more obvious. Yet intelligence and stupidity are not the main grounds of the author's argument; it is the ant's spiritual qualities he most admires. The ant, like ourselves, "may be destined to play some exceptional part in the world, to achieve some sort of immortality, to nourish vague and magnificent hopes." (This follows an account of the methodical actions of mushroom-growing ants.) M. Maeterlinck's actual belief is in the futility of man's aspirations rather than the reality of the ant's. He appears to have lost touch with the human race, fixed as he is in a permanent attitude of despair and prejudice. No wonder his ant assumes the wrong proportions, when he has nothing vital to compare her with. For instance, there is the question of happiness. In his book on the termite M. Maeterlinck decided that the scheme of things did not include happiness. Now he goes further, to restate the fallacy that human happiness is but a negative absence of pain. The ant (who is "a profoundly mystical being; she exists only for her god") knows a positive happiness—the joy of constant giving, and of duty done.

Now the seat of this happiness which M. Maeterlinck so envies, is the abdomen. The ant has a special pouch that she fills with honey, afterwards regurgitating it to nourish all who beg of her. This social, charitable, altruistic act is the key to the whole communal existence of the ant. Termites and bees have similar arrangements. Only the poor human has no social organ, and his life is therefore egocentric. Is it too much, M. Maeterlinck suggests, to hope that this material social organ will develop in time?—One hopes it is too much. There is no sorting out M. Maeterlinck's philosophy. He is all for spiritual and mental values, yet happiness as a purely physical function is his ideal for mankind.

For the reader the best solution is to skip the philosophy

and concentrate on the fascinating description of the ants themselves. M. Maeterlinck is well practised in gathering and presenting facts from reliable authorities, and a theme with so much wonder and amazement in it needs no personal overtones to secure its interest. Remove the all-too-frequent overtones and the book is a delight. But it would be unfair to M. Maeterlinck to excuse him his intentional aberrations.

SYLVA NORMAN.

THE BYZANTINES, EL GRECO AND CÉZANNE

The Birth of Western Painting. By ROBERT BYRON and DAVID TALBOT RICE. (Routledge. 42s.)

AMID the welter of realism, symbolism, formalism, and general individualism which characterizes the production of the army of modern artists who pay tribute to Cézanne, there is one factor which crops up with enough regularity, and as a product often enough of the sincere use of natural gifts, to be regarded as a unifying factor—the pursuit of colour relations as a means to formal expression. Whether or not posterity will regard it as the most sensible legacy of painting of the earlier part of the twentieth century time alone will show ; but if so, it will be a legacy not entirely unprecedented in art history.

Mr. Robert Byron's last words in his new book are these :—

" In the eighth and ninth centuries the Byzantines discovered a new purpose in art. In the tenth and eleventh, they perfected a corresponding technique. In the eleventh and twelfth, their rulers, scholars, preachers, monks, and common folk, coalesced in a common impulse towards humanization. In the thirteenth and fourteenth they communicated the purpose, in the guise of a humanized style of painting, to Italy. The Italians then revived the classical technique of reproduction, which so overwhelmed them that, in the sixteenth, they lost the purpose. But, in the sixteenth, came the last Byzantine, who borrowed of the new freedom, only to further the original aim. Then he died without succession ; and not until three centuries later was the aim rediscovered. This is the history of interpretational painting in Europe."

Such are the outlines of his thesis ; and if his final statement sounds bald and sweeping, it should not be dismissed without the realization that it would account to some extent for the unexplained phenomenon of El Greco as well as for the persistence, intermittent but of undimmed purpose on each reappearance, of the Byzantine tradition and technique.

His first task is to trace the events leading up to the Iconoclast Controversy out of which " arose a compromise, of austere and unearthly magnificence, whereby the artist, in place of reproducing a subject in the exact likeness of his world was now to reproduce his own emotional reaction to the central and One Factor in his and everyone else's lives." Thus, if the author's words have validity, art flourished and gained power by its forced deflection from naturalism : by its very necessity, resulting from the need of the common people for some sort of explanatory image of the godhead in the absence, enforced by the religious purists, of intermediary idols.

After prolonged examination of the work of the later Byzantine painters at Mistra and Mount Athos, Mr. Byron considered El Greco's accomplishment in the light of them and came to the conclusion that his Cretan birth and ancestry accounted for much more in that accomplishment than has been supposed. His consideration of El Greco's work side by side with that of his supposed predecessors is illuminating, and the illustrations (which are Mr. Rice's important contribution to the book) are most judiciously arranged.

This study is very apposite at the present time, and Mr. Byron is to be congratulated on the insight and thoroughness with which he has carried it out. A hazy relationship between the later Byzantine painters, El Greco and Cézanne has for long been apparent, but it was just such a work as this that was needed to point the moral ; a work to be carried out under difficult conditions and only by an enthusiastic student with those qualifications that Mr. Byron possesses, borrowing, as he says, the lessons of modern art and transferring them to a field hitherto monopolized by the archaeologist. The minute analyses of colour relations in the Byzantine wall-paintings form a monument of well-applied

pains, and many of his suggestions with relation to El Greco's work are most stimulating. Those concerning Greco's elongated forms, for instance, and their place beside the examples from this other and earlier art produced by thousands of artists during a period of seven centuries are worth any number of befuddled references to astigmatism and dementia.

The book will be invaluable to all students, not only of Byzantine painting in general, but to those whose aim, like that of the renowned school of Cretan painters in the sixteenth century, is " to evoke the awe of the beholder by their unearthly combinations of colour, by the accentuation of every colour and every light, not for the purposes of dramatic chiaroscuro, but in order to invest each form with the maximum of identity and energy."

JOHN PIPER.

NEW NOVELS

Poor Caroline. By WINIFRED HOLTBY. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)
Lacemaker Lekholm Has An Idea. By GUSTAF HELLSTROM. Translated by F. H. LYON. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)
Dwarf's Blood. By EDITH OLIVIER. (Faber & Faber. 7s. 6d.)
Letty Lynton. By MRS. BELLOC LOWNDES. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.)
Several Faces. By JENNIFER COURtenay. (Gollancz. 7s. 6d.)
The Misted Mirror. By HENRY DANIEL-ROPS. Translated by R. H. MOTTRAM. (Secker. 7s. 6d.)

MISS HOLTBY'S novel explodes the fallacy of Mr. Bernard Shaw's maxim, " He who can does ; he who cannot teaches." Miss Holtby is known as one of the soundest and brightest of our literary critics, and in her novel she surely has satisfied her own judgment. Her writing has the happy trinity of strength, economy, and beauty. She has made her book as the wise bird builds its nest : the weft and woof of each character has been tested, appraised, and criticized ; each has its special place, and in the centre of the nest is Poor Caroline. Compassion, it would seem, was the urge behind the genesis of the story ; and, although that is not a virtue to be derided, one cannot help wondering whether pain would not have forced a greater story from the author. It is as if the shy, disinterested Good Samaritan had told the story rather than the man who was left sorely wounded. So few novelists write with Miss Holtby's distinction of phrase and thought that we are jealously anxious she should take her place with the three sisters to whose county she belongs.

Laughter interrupts the reading of Gustaf Hellstrom's book. It is delicious ; in its brightness it is unlike any Scandinavian story that has been translated into English, and the author has been well served by Mr. Lyon. It is a saga of Lekholm and his descendants ; and the romance of the lacemaker's son, the mathematician, has a star-like radiance.

Perhaps, if the hero of " Dwarf's Blood " had read a little poem by the youngest of Leigh Hunt's sons he might not have been obsessed by the dwarf taint in his blood. But, then, this story might not have been written, which would have been a pity. The scene between Nicholas Roxemby and his bedizened, dwarfish mother makes a Hogarthian picture—although Mr. Rex Whistler on the dust jacket cleverly conveys a Dickensian flavour. That the dwarf destroys the fable of tainted blood is proof of Miss Olivier's sanity of outlook. The author's sensitiveness in descriptions of the countryside would alone make the book worth reading.

Not even the shockingly bad verse by Swinburne on the cover can mar the fascination of Mrs. Belloc Lowndes's poison story. Letty Lynton is a poisoner by accident, and a dangerously beautiful little minx by nature, a cuckoo in the nest of upright parents, who stand by her in her trouble and then promptly marry her off to a butcher-bird of a lover. Mrs. Lowndes skilfully keeps us wondering whether Letty will escape the hangman's cord ; and the inquest scene rivals in thrills some of the biggest in the trials of to-day.

We have been in good company so far, but we take a deep header into dullness in trying to fathom the intentions of " Several Faces." Barbara, the heroine, seems to regard marital love as a sort of Swedish drill : a robot automaton would have suited her purpose better than a husband. Dis-

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loyal in mind and in body, this charmer describes fictitious amorous interludes with her husband as aphrodisiacs to inflame her blackguardly lover. The people of this story are meant to be human beings, but we are left with the conviction that animals in their spontaneous mating are on a higher plane.

Mr. Mottram has not only given an admirable translation of M. Daniel-Rops's book, but has also written an exciting preface. The story deals with the adolescence of a particularly unpleasant boy, the type exploited by many English authors. Mr. Mottram (apparently innocent of the modern English novel) thinks that this book will give the clue to the way the French arrive at their philosophy of life. My experience is the obverse; the boy Blaire Orlier has his counterpart in nearly all the books dealing with adolescence. It is not a question of nationality, but of unwholesome concentration on a disagreeable type of abnormality. The normal counts for nothing in psycho-analytical days. If Victorian heroes and heroines were more virtuous than virtue could own, Georgian characters out-do Silenus, exalt Pan's cloven hoof, and would make Messalina blush. Why should the author of "The Spanish Farm," who could not if he would write "The Misted Mirror," spend his time in such Sisyphean labour?

KATHLEEN C. TOMLINSON.

FILM FACTS AND THEORIES

The New Spirit in the Cinema. By HUNTRY CARTER. (Shaylor. 30s.)

Sound Pictures and Trouble Shooters' Manual. By JAMES R. CAMERON and JOHN F. RIDER. (New York: Cameron Publishing Company. \$7.50.)

Cameron's Encyclopedia of Sound Motion Pictures. Compiled by JAMES R. CAMERON. (New York: Cameron Publishing Company. \$3.50.)

Modern Theatres and Cinemas. By P. MORTON SHAND. (Batsford. 15s.)

MR. HUNTRY CARTER, who in previous books has investigated the social aspects of the theatre, has now produced a parallel study of the cinema, embodied in a volume imposing in appearance and in price. Equally imposing is Mr. Carter's thesis, as expressed in the sub-title of his book:—

"An Analysis and Interpretation of the Parallel Paths of the Cinema, which have led to the present Revolutionary Crisis, forming a Study of the Cinema as an instrument of Sociological Humanism."

The concluding phrase is the keynote of the book. Mr. Carter sees the cinema as an instrument of social expression: an instrument which might be applied to a good purpose, but which has been utilized for a bad purpose. The good purpose, which crystallizes the New Spirit (Mr. Carter dispenses capitals bountifully) is service; the bad purpose is acquisitiveness. In the course of his four hundred pages Mr. Carter discusses, at length and without concern for the graces of style, Mr. Carter, society, sex, crime, religion, Hollywood, English films, the quota, the censorship, and the Film Society; in fact, there is scarcely any aspect of civilization and cinema which has escaped Mr. Carter's comprehensive eye. Consequently readers in search of information and comment will not be disappointed, though the information is not invariably accurate and the comment too frequently derived from newspaper sources (duly acknowledged in copious footnotes). But Mr. Carter's description of his book as a "creative construction" raises hopes which are not fulfilled. Illumination there is, but as regards the author rather than his theme. Take, for example, Mr. Carter's views on aesthetics:—

"I learned something of the thing we call Art, and found it was a thing underlying all forms of expression of Art, in all ages and in all lands, as though all men called artists were working with one thing, but making it express their intentions in thousands of different ways. I stated this theory in the journal with which I was associated."

Further on Mr. Carter asserts, without explanation, that in art "the common thing is motion," and, again without explanation: "The concept of Art as a creative movement outside human beings which acts upon them as a means of inspiration had the effect of setting me against the Cinema. . . . Another thing that set me against the Cinema was

photography." Not the most promising attitude, to be sure, in which to approach his subject!

It is not surprising, then, to find Mr. Carter inquiring, apropos of Pudovkin's remark that the foundation of all film art is editing (*montage*), "How long has editing had anything to do with art," and announcing: "There is no creative force required to build up a picture of bits of film, any more than there is to assemble a Ford motor" (or, one is tempted to add, to assemble a book on the cinema), and "The method enters into the region of tricks."

However, Mr. Carter's ideals are unimpeachable. He attacks with ardour the commercialism of the film industry and the crudity of its products, and he looks forward to the time when the purpose of the film will be "to study and understand humanity," when "the people as a whole . . . will utilize it for the expression of their memory and aspirations, for their ambitions, desires, prejudices"; though one would think that ambitions, desires, and prejudices are already sufficiently exploited on the screen.

In the two volumes from the Cameron Publishing Company we enter the unemotional but far from uninteresting region of fact. "Sound Pictures" is a portly work of 1,100 pages and 500 diagrams which provides a complete education in the technique of sound films, from the first elements of electrical knowledge to the details of recording and projection by means of the leading American systems. Every aspect of sound film engineering, including the location of faults ("trouble shooting") is discussed.

The "Encyclopaedia of Sound Motion Pictures" is a handy little volume of three hundred pages which will be invaluable to all interested in sound films. The two thousand entries range from brief definitions of technical and studio terms to long notes on subjects such as "condensers" and "recording." So useful a compilation should soon attain the dignity of a second edition, when the opportunity will no doubt be taken to remedy the imperfections inseparable from a pioneer enterprise. What class of reader the volume is intended for is the problem raised by the inclusion of practical instruction (e.g., Brushes, Care of), as well as of a page of theoretical information on geometrical axioms. Again, what is the point of including definitions of words such as "inch" and "coincide" (and a bad definition at that)? And what enlightenment will be gleaned from notes such as "Inertia: Property of matter at rest"; "Akeley Shot: a scene made with an Akeley camera"; and "Scenario: a general description of a proposed photoplay"? Furthermore, adequate cross-referencing would double the usefulness of the book. For example, the entries on Recording and Electro-magnetic recording need linking up; and an entry should be inserted under Editing to refer the inquirer to the excellent notes given under Cutting. However, though this book falls short of the excellence it will doubtless attain, it is still one for which to be grateful.

With Mr. Morton Shand we leave the projection room and wander round the building which it serves. The hundred odd reproductions—admirable examples of photography—show exteriors, general exteriors, proscenium openings, foyers and passages, night façades, and interior lighting effects; the theatres and cinemas represented being those which best, in Mr. Shand's opinion, illustrate the recent trend of design. In these pages may be observed the effect of modern materials such as steel and concrete, of modern ideas of lighting, and of modern theories of simplification and adaptation for purpose. The theatre of the future will be further modified by the requirements of the new stage lighting and mechanically operated scenery; while the cinema of the future will take into consideration the special acoustical problems arising from the sound film, as well as the enlarged screen which is imminent. Already, of course, the cinema has evolved its own peculiar features; some of which, as, for example, the jack-in-the-box orchestra, are merely barbarous excrescences (amusingly characterized in Mr. Shand's racy commentary). Germany is the chief contributor to the post-war movement in architecture, and so Mr. Shand devotes the majority of his illustrations to examples of German work. A selection of the work of other countries is included, England being represented notably by the new Savoy Theatre.

MARK SEGAL.

February 14, 1931

THE NATION & ATHENÆUM

Page 641



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"I'm afraid," I said, "that I shan't be able to go through all the problems in detail. The shadow of the guillotine hangs over us."

"How does one hang a shadow?" inquired Miranda.

"Peace, child. What I'm going to suggest is this: that we should explore to-day Problems VII. and X.—the two stiffest ones. Problem VI. was quite straightforward—an example of the Business Pass—while Problems VIII. and IX. require a discussion to themselves. Is that agreed?"

There were vague murmurs of approval.

"Now Problem VII." I resumed, "was really rather a poser. South, at the score of love-all, dealt himself the following hand:—

♦ A 7 5 4 3 ♠ 10 7 4 3 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ 5

The bidding proceeded as follows:—

Round	1	2	3
South ...	No Bid	1 No-Trump	No Bid
West ...	1 Spade	2 Spades	3 Spades
North ...	Double	3 Hearts	4 Clubs
East ...	No Bid	Double	4 No-Trumps

and the problem is: what should South say now?"

"The problem that confronted me," said Stephano, "was how all those bids could possibly be justified. Some of them must be bad. But unless we know *which* are the bad ones, we can't expect South to make the right decision."

"No," I objected, "you mustn't assume that the bidding is bad: you must assume that the bidding is good. On that assumption, the hands can be read with reasonable exactitude. Come, let us set them out in accordance with the bidding." And I drew a little diagram of the table.

♦ None
♥ A Q x x x
♦ K x x
♣ Q 10 x x x

♦ K Q J 10 x x x
♥ None
♦ Q x x x x
♣ K J x

North
West East
South

♦ x x
♥ K J x
♦ J 10 x x x
♣ A x x x

♦ A 7 5 4 3
♥ 10 7 4 3 2
♦ A 6
♣ 5

"South's hand we know," I began. "West has 2½ quick tricks and is very strong in Spades. We know that because he bids the suit originally; he bids it again in the face of a Double and a No-Trump bid from South; and he bids it yet once more over his partner's double of Three Hearts. Probably, also, he is void in Hearts. On the other hand, he can have no quick tricks over his minimum, for North shows two suits, and East overbids them both. So we will give West, say, six Spades, a trick in Clubs, and half-a-trick in Diamonds."

"Quite simple, my dear Watson," said Miranda. "But does that leave enough for North and East?"

"Oh, yes. North is void of Spades, but holds the King of Diamonds (say), the Ace, Queen of Hearts, and the Queen of Clubs. There's his double for you. Pretty strong suits, the last two, since North bids them both. While West must hold a double stopper in Hearts, and in Clubs one stopper at least. At least two Spades, also; since he cannot hope to play the hand in Four No-Trumps without making use of East's Spades."

We filled in the diagram (above) in accordance with these ideas.

"And now you see," I concluded, "why I recommend South to leave Four No-Trumps alone. His partner cannot make Five Hearts—he must lose two Heart tricks and a Club—while the Four No-Trumps is easily defeated."

"Suppose West had had seven Spades? East makes his contract."

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"Yes, but then West's bidding would have been bad. He should have opened with Three Spades to begin with."

"But why does not South double the Four No-Trumps?" asked Gonzalo. "You have proved—to your own satisfaction anyway—that the bid must fail."

"Because West may then bid Five Spades. That, admittedly, will fail also—and you may well argue that South, with five trumps, will welcome it—but the chances of defeating the Four No-Trump bid are on the whole better."

"I'm not altogether convinced," said Gonzalo. "But I'll take away your diagram and brood over it. And now there's Problem X."

"Here we are. At love-all, South deals himself:—

♦ 6 5 4 3 2 ♠ None ♦ A 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K

North holds:—

♦ A K Q J ♠ A Q 10 ♦ None ♣ Q J 10 9 8 2

How should South-North bid their hands, on the assumption that East and West say nothing; and how should the hand be played?"

Prospero shook his head. "Too complicated, that one. I did the first nine; but I tore them up when it came to writing a thesis."

"There were several good theses written, nevertheless. Consider first the bidding. Here is our first prizewinner's solution:—

South: 1 Diamond; 4 Spades; 6 Clubs; 7 Clubs.

North: 2 Spades; 5 Clubs; 6 Spades; 7 Spades.

"Do you approve of that?" asked Stephano.

"It's on the right lines. With the two hands set out, there are many paths to the goal. I prefer this one:—

South: 1 Diamond; 4 Clubs; 5 Hearts; 6 Spades.

North: 3 Clubs; 4 Spades; 6 Clubs; 7 Spades.

North should show his long suit first, and South should show his void in Hearts. And now for the play."

"—which must depend on the lead from East."

"I know. The most likely lead is a *Diamond*. North takes with the Ace, discards a Club from his own hand, and leads a trump. He then ruffs a Heart, leads a second trump, ruffs a second Heart. He can now draw the last trumps, and discards the Ace and King of Clubs from dummy. The rest of his Clubs are good."

"And if a Heart is led?"

"Much the same idea. Trump in dummy, lead two rounds of trumps, then trump another Heart. Remaining rounds as before. The important thing is the unblocking of North's long Club suit."

"Did anyone get that right?" asked Miranda.

"Mr. Davies did."

"Gosh!" said Gonzalo. "He thoroughly deserves his five guineas."

A LITERARY POCKET-BOOK

Writing in 1853 Frederic Harrison said the Church was a selfish sect, completely estranged from the poor, and that it could not last a generation. In 1911 he said that the half-century which had elapsed since he used this language had been marked by a great revival of the Church's moral and social power. Mr. Donald O. Wagner has set out to describe this revival ("The Church of England and Social Reform since 1854," King, 21s.), and he gives an interesting and valuable account of the Christian Social Union and similar bodies. In one sense he rather overrates their influence. They produced men with wide sympathies who helped to lead social movements, but they represented until lately a minority, and a small minority in the Church. Clergymen who took the popular side or the workmen's side on industrial and social questions were apt to suffer. The recent volume of Queen Victoria's letters contains a letter from Lord Salisbury, who was shocked by Westcott's speeches as Bishop of Durham, and thought that to make him an Archbishop would do a serious mischief. The Church suffered in this way because until comparatively lately the Bishops were as a rule opposed or cold to the movements in which working men were interested. It was a disaster that the great Dr. Hook, the most famous of the vicars of great towns never became a Bishop. Fraser, appointed to the See of Manchester by Gladstone in 1870, gave the Church a great power in the North. To-day, oddly enough, the situation is just the opposite. The Bishops are ahead of the rank and file. In 1917 a Committee of Churchmen published a remarkable document "Christianity and Industrial Problems." Dr. Wagner gives a very

interesting account of this important development. The present Archbishop of York and Bishops like those of Lichfield and Southwark have taken a leading part in this revolution, but the chief personal influence has probably been that of Bishop Gore.

Mr. Gerald R. Hayes proceeds with his series of five books on "Musical Instruments and their Music, 1500-1750"; the second (Milford, 10s. 6d.) treats of "The Viols, and other Bowed Instruments." This is a rich subject, of which few have any mastery. Mr. Hayes is wonderfully learned in the technical literature and the surviving examples concerned. His work, indirectly, will be valued as an aid to the allusions in the poetry of his period, when "music and sweet poetry agreed" so frequently. The volume is illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Composing "Love Among the Haystacks, and Other Pieces" (Nonesuch Press, 15s.) in 1912, and subsequently endeavouring without success to have them published, Lawrence could hardly have foreseen the handsome form in which they now appear. There are four of them; and Mr. David Garnett, who was a close observer of the circumstances under which the first three were produced, prefixes to them his recollections of the author in the summer of 1912. He has indeed given a living picture of Lawrence probably at his best, and of the beautiful setting of their first season of friendship; "there was an oleander in flower before the door, and strings of mules with swinging red tassels, loaded with huge Gruyère cheeses, were coming down the village street out of the forest and the mountains." However, the two best stories in the book—rather, they are the two parts of one story—are not quite so vernal: "Two days ago it began to rain. When I think of it I wonder. The gutter of the heavens hangs over the Tyrolean Alps." Thence came Lawrence's episodes of the chapel and the hay-hut among the mountains.

LECTURES.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A COURSE of Three Lectures on "La littérature française au début du XIV^e siècle" will be given by Monsieur MARIO ROQUES (Lecturer in Philology in the University of Paris), at KING'S COLLEGE, STRAND, W.C.2, on FEBRUARY 16th, 18th, and 20th, at 5.30 p.m. At the first Lecture the Chair will be taken by Professor L. M. BRANDIN, Ph.D., M.A., Fielden Professor of French and Romance Philology in the University.

A COURSE of Two Lectures on "IMITATION" will be given by Professor C. H. GRANDJEAN (Professor of Romance Languages in the Harvard University), at UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, Gower Street, W.C.1, on FEBRUARY 25th and 27th, at 5.30 p.m.

A Course of Three Lectures on "THE LIGHT THROWN BY GREEK INSCRIPTIONS ON THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF THE ANCIENT WORLD" will be given by Mr. MARCUS N. TOD, M.A., F.B.A. (Reader in Greek Epigraphy in the University of Oxford), at UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, Gower Street, W.C.1, on Thursdays, FEBRUARY 20th, MARCH 5th and 12th, at 5.30 p.m. At the first Lecture the Chair will be taken by Professor E. A. Gardner, Litt.D., Emeritus Professor of Archaeology in the University.

A lecture on "THE PROBLEM OF NATIONALITIES" will be given (in English) by Professor R. REDSLOB (Professor of International Law and Diplomatic History in the University of Strasbourg; Professor in the Academy of International Law at the Hague; Assoc. Member of the International Diplomatic Academy), at the LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2, on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 25th, at 5 p.m. The Chair will be taken by Professor J. L. Brierley, O.B.E., M.A., B.C.L., Chichele Professor of International Law, and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

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S. J. WORSLEY. Academic Registrar.

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COMPANY MEETING.

GAS LIGHT & COKE CO.

The two hundred and twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Gas Light and Coke Company was held on Friday, February 6th, at the chief office of the company, Horseferry Road, Westminster, S.W.

Sir David Milne-Watson, LL.D., D.L. (the Governor of the company), who presided, said: I propose first to deal with the capital account. We have expended during the year £54,000 on lands, £255,000 on buildings and machinery, £465,000 on mains and service pipes, £82,000 on meters, £149,000 on stoves—altogether a total of £1,005,000. We have depreciated our ships and stoves by £117,000, making a net increase in the capital of £888,000.

Expenditure this year has been exceptionally heavy, partially due to the large number of mains which have had to be laid in the areas of the companies we have taken over in recent years—Brentford, Grays and Pinner—and also to the work we have done at the request of the Government in respect of gas-holders, mains and other plant. I will refer to these later on in my speech.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY MILD YEAR

Turning to the revenue account, you will have seen from the report that we have experienced a decrease in business of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. During the second half of the year the increase in our business was normal, but it was not sufficient to make up for the decrease in the sales of gas during the first part of the year, when we experienced exceptionally mild weather. In the year 1929 we had an abnormal increase in the first six months of over 8 per cent. owing to the severe climatic conditions then prevailing, and, therefore, it was only to be expected that with a mild winter in the following year there would be a falling off in gas sales. There is no reason, therefore, for anxiety with regard to the company's position. You will notice that during the year we had an addition of no less than 25,000 consumers and sent out 90,000 additional gas appliances—fires, cookers, &c.—which have been either sold or let out on hire. This is eminently satisfactory, and in due course we shall reap the reward.

The decrease in gas sales cost the company £180,000.

Dealing with the revenue account in detail: The cost of coal was more by £75,000, which was due chiefly to the fact that the percentage of coal gas made was larger than in the corresponding period. This led, of course, to a reduction in the proportion of water gas made, and, as you will see, there was a saving of £52,000 on oil.

SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMER

The large figure spent on repairs and maintenance of mains and service pipes, repair and renewal of meters and stoves is an indication that the company is pursuing its established policy of giving satisfaction to its consumers. Rentals of meters and stoves show a satisfactory increase. With regard to residuals, coke and breeze show an improved position, having brought in over £100,000 more than in the previous year. Tar and its products were not so satisfactory, and the revenue from these by-products show a reduction; this is a matter, however, which we hope may be remedied in future years. The one feature in the revenue account which is thoroughly unsatisfactory is sulphate of ammonia, on which in 1929 we made a profit of £77,000 and last year a loss of £16,000. For this unpleasant result the company is in no way responsible. We as a company are specially handicapped by the long carriage of a large proportion of our ammoniacal liquor from our Western gas stations to our products works.

THE UNSATISFACTORY SULPHATE MARKET

The unsatisfactory market position has been brought about by the large quantity of nitrogen which is now being extracted from the air by synthetic plants not only in Great Britain, but also in Germany, France, Italy, the United States, Japan, and elsewhere. There is no prospect, I am sorry to say, of the situation improving, inasmuch as it is the policy of the countries I have mentioned to possess their own nitrogen plants, not only for the purpose of producing the fertilisers they require for their own use, but also as a home source of nitrogen in the event of war. We received about £12 a ton for sulphate before the war and to-day we obtain less than £5 per ton.

I should like to explain that we cannot avoid the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia as we are not allowed to run the ammoniacal liquor into the sewers and, therefore, we are compelled to work it up into sulphate of ammonia. We are doing all we can to find means to remedy the position, and research is taking place all the time to see whether any other use for ammoniacal liquor can be discovered, but so far it has not been successful.

RESULT OF THE YEAR'S WORKING

The result of the working for the year is as follows: The balance transferred from the revenue account to the profit and loss account was £1,810,000, as against £1,883,000 for the previous year. This balance, after allowing for interest on borrowed money for the year and the dividends distributed in respect of the June half-year, leaves a sum of £804,000 from which to pay dividends for the December half-year.

This sum enables the directors to declare the usual dividends on the Four per Cent. Consolidated Preference stock and the Three and a-Half per Cent. Maximum stock, and a dividend at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the Ordinary stock. These dividends, together with the necessary contribution of £20,000 to the redemption fund, will absorb £682,000, leaving £122,000 to be carried forward to the credit of the current year's account, as against £160,000 carried forward on the last occasion.

THE LORD MAYOR AT BOW COMMON

With regard to the company's works, everything is being done to keep them thoroughly up to date. At Bow Common the works have been reconstructed, and in June the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Waterlow, with the Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs, did us the honour of opening them officially. Work is progressing on a large installation of coke ovens at Beckton; a reconstructed retort house has been completed at Fulham and another at Nine Elms; and at Brentford and Southall the work on vertical retorts and other plant is nearing completion.

NEW SHOWROOMS

New showrooms have been opened at Barking Road, and others are in course of erection at Woodford, Harrow, Hackney, and Acton, and we have acquired sites at Billericay, Rayleigh, and Wickford for further showrooms.

The Grays and Pinner Gas Companies were taken over, as you know, at the beginning of last year, and the reorganization of these new districts is nearing completion. In the long run there is no doubt whatever that they will prove of great value to the company.

NEW GASHOLDERS

New gasholders have been erected at Southall and Richmond, and others are in course of erection at Beckton, Battersea, Kensal Green, and Harrow. Considerable discussion arose as to the Harrow gasholder, and strong local opposition was encountered on the score that it would spoil the view from the top of Harrow Hill. After prolonged negotiation, the company offered to stop construction at a height of 180 feet, just below the skyline, and then, if the Harrow inhabitants still objected to the holder, to put up a small supplementary holder, the extra expense to be met by an increase in the price of gas in the area of the late Harrow Gas Company. The Harrow Urban District Council, however, after discussing the matter, dropped their opposition on the understanding that they are to be notified when we reach 180 feet and that they should be allowed to have say with regard to the painting of the holder.

EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTIONAL WORK

You may remember that in the summer of 1929 we were approached by the Government and asked whether, in anticipation, we would put certain constructional work in hand at an earlier date than we otherwise would, on the understanding that the interest on the money so expended would be found for us for a period of years. We agreed to do this, and accordingly we are in the process of expending some £500,000 or £600,000 on gasholders, mains and plant which will, of course, be ultimately needed. The work is proceeding rapidly, some of it having been already completed, and the expenditure for the year is included in the capital expenditure already referred to.

From what I have told you, you will realize that during the past year we have not been idle, but have been pressing forward with work for the ultimate benefit of the company. In this connection we are actively continuing our research work, without which little real progress can be made.

LOW TEMPERATURE CARBONIZATION

The low temperature plant at Richmond has been operated during the year, and we have come to an arrangement with the Government Department concerned to carry on work there for another year. "Glico," the smokeless fuel produced, has been generally considered satisfactory. Unfortunately, however, the process has not been a commercial success. The tar produced has been found unsuitable for road work, and is only at present saleable for fuel. Research is being actively carried on, however, in the hope of finding some better use for this product.

I am glad to say that the majority of the claims in the Holborn explosion have now been settled. You will see that an additional £31,000 has been charged to the special purposes fund under that heading. We, as a company, have paid out £66,000 altogether, and there are now very few claims outstanding.

The Coal Mines Bill has now become an Act, but it is perhaps too early to say what its effect will be so far as the gas industry is concerned.

FURTHER AMALGAMATIONS PROPOSED

The company is promoting a Bill in Parliament to provide for the transfer to this company of the undertakings of the Southend-on-Sea and the Brentwood gas companies and for such other purposes as will be explained to you at the extraordinary general meeting to follow at the close of this meeting.

During the autumn we made an issue of 2½ million Four and a-Half per Cent. Redeemable debenture stock, which was applied for no less than twenty-six times over. It is very gratifying to find that the public hold gas stocks in such high repute.

So much for the history of the company's activities during the past year.

(Continued on page 647.)

THE WEEK IN THE CITY

By TOREADOR

NEW YORK AWAKES—INDIA LOANS—GAS v. ELECTRICITY—AUSTRALIA AGAIN

WHETHER the New York "professionals" have succeeded, where their London compatriots failed, in enticing the public back on to the Stock Exchange, is not yet certain. Each upward movement in these days starts with the "bears" rushing to cover, but hitherto the public has looked on. Technically, the New York stock market was ripe for a recovery. The index of thirty industrial shares touched bottom on December 16th at 157.51. Since that date the market has moved up and down three times, but each successive downward move stopped short of the previous "low." To anyone accustomed to reading graphs, which is often more difficult than reading the stars, this was evidence of a change of market trend. The present upward move started on February 2nd, when the index stood at 164.5, and on February 10th the index had reached 181.1, a rise of 10 per cent. The rise may go further, as sentiment in New York has undoubtedly improved, but caution is obviously desirable while trade reports reveal not much more than a seasonal recovery. If trade in the spring disappoints, another reaction may yet overtake the New York markets. A final word of caution to the speculator in American common shares—the "leaders" of the 1928-29 boom will not necessarily be the "leaders" in the 1931 or 1932 recovery. On a dividend yield basis the old "leaders" are still standing too high: it is only the secondary issues which have been thoroughly deflated.

* * *

The childlike confidence with which the City of London subscribes to India Government loans is remarkable. The £12,000,000 issue for cash this week of India 5½ per cent. stock at 97 was over-subscribed, while the conversion offer to holders of 5½ per cent. India stock, 1932, was readily accepted. In the past nine months India has borrowed £31,000,000 from the British investor, an amount which exceeds the total sterling loans raised in the previous five years. With a deficit of some £8,000,000 on its Budget, it is evident that the India Government is hard-pressed for money. As it is unable at the present time to borrow internally, London is being asked to nurse the Federal baby. True, the baby is being doctored and petted in an enlightened and humanitarian way, but what will happen when the baby grows up? The prospectus of the recent India loan contained no information regarding the safeguards for external loans under the proposed Federal Constitution. Will India loans remain trustee securities forever? They are not guaranteed by the British Government, but are secured on the revenues of the India Government. Who is to be responsible for the collection of these revenues under the proposed Constitution for a Federal India? Five years hence India loans may, like Chinese Customs loans, be secured on revenues collected under the supervision of a British Inspector-General of Customs, independent of the native Government administration. But some trustees who subscribed to India on Monday might be shocked at a comparison between India and China loans.

* * *

It is curious that when Governments and municipalities take up trading, they become so enthusiastic about their trade as to forget good manners. The Minister of Transport has apparently gone about the country "boosting electricity." The gas industry has naturally complained. As politicians command prominent places in the popular Press, the Minister of Transport has apparently no right to tell the world that in his home electricity lights the rooms, cooks the food, heats the flat-iron, and boils the kettle unless he adds that in his aunt's home gas has performed these offices equally well, or that he has heard from his uncle high praises of Count Auer von Welsbach's invention of the gas mantle. But innocent boasting of electricity by the head of an electricity-mongering department is not all that the chairmen of the Gas Light and

Coke and South Metropolitan Gas Companies have complained of at their annual meetings. According to Dr. Carpenter, certain municipalities which purvey electricity have prohibited the use of gas on their housing estates—in thirteen cases for all purposes, and in forty-seven cases for such specific purposes as heating and lighting. Sir D. Milne-Watson quoted a case where the local council had had the existing gas pipes on their estate filled with liquid cement. And this is supposed to be a free country. The trouble is that the State has promoted a national electricity scheme without thought for co-ordination with the gas industry. It might just as well have promoted a national omnibus scheme without a thought for the railways. And it leaves the gas industry still fettered in part by Acts of Parliament which date back to 1847 when gas was a monopoly. If the State is to exercise statutory control over industries, its control must be efficient. Every statute which impedes the rationalization of the gas industry should be removed. It is small wonder that there is a restricted investment interest in the leading gas stocks whose earnings and dividend yields are as follows:—

	Present Price	Earned	Paid	Div. Yield
Gas Light and Coke £1 units ...	20/6	5.7%	5 3-5%	£5 12 0%
South Metropolitan Gas Stock ...	105½	6.3%	6½%	£5 19 0%

* * *

A sympathetic comment on Australia last week ended with these words: "The next step is a long-term loan, if safeguards for the investor can be given. The alternatives are inflation and default." The Conference of Premiers has made it clear that safeguards will not be given. The only question is whether inflation will precede or coincide with default. Mr. Lang, Premier of New South Wales, is in favour of both together; Mr. Theodore wants inflation first. Let us assume that both will come sooner or later. What, then, will be the position of the holders of the £57½ millions of external Government debt? Inflation, raising internal prices, would lower the exchange value of the Australian £ still further. (It is already quoted at £130 per £100 London.) This would increase the cost (in Australian £s) of the annual interest on the overseas debt and in other directions upset the national budget, but in so far as it would raise the income and spending power (measured in Australian £s) of the export industries it might benefit Australia. (It depends, of course, how skilfully the inflation is managed. To be successful, wages and interest rates would have to be pegged to allow the rise in prices to reduce the "real" burden of wages and interest charges to the fullest extent.) As a depreciated exchange would restrict imports without affecting the value in London £s of the export trade, inflation might even help to solve the transfer problem, i.e., the obtaining of sterling exchange to meet the overseas interest payments.

* * *

Repudiation or default in payment of interest is a more serious matter. Nevertheless, these are a few comforting thoughts. Australia will find it very difficult to default. If New South Wales endorses Premier Lang's threat and refuses to pay interest on her overseas debt, the Federal Government will have to pay up. Under the Financial Agreement Validation Act of 1929 the Commonwealth took over the debts of the States and assumed their obligations to the bondholders. If the Commonwealth Government refused to make good, the bondholders could take action in the English Courts. In other words, Australia cannot default unless she breaks entirely away from the British Empire. The Australian democracy is, of course, capable of anything, but I cannot believe that it is prepared to abandon its membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations to spite British bondholders.

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February 14, 1931

THE NATION & ATHENÆUM

Page 647

COMPANY MEETING—(Gas Light & Coke Co.) continued.

A PROTEST AGAINST MINISTERIAL PROPAGANDA

I should like now to draw your attention for a few minutes to a subject on which we, in common with others engaged in the gas industry, feel very strongly—namely, the boosting that is being given to electricity by the Government and by many local authorities. In doing this I am not complaining particularly of this Government, as we experienced the same thing under the previous Government, and apparently it is becoming the common practice in Government circles, whatever their complexion. Recently we had the spectacle of the Minister of Transport, whose Department is in charge of electricity, holding meetings in the cities of London, Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow, generally under the aegis of the Lord Mayor or Lord Provost of the city, and I wish, on behalf of this company and the industry generally, emphatically to protest against his action.

It seems to me grossly unfair that a Minister of the Crown, whose duty surely it is to be impartial, should so far forget his public position as to come forward as special pleader for a particular industry and not only recommend the use of electricity in general terms, but advocate the installation in particular of electric fires and cookers for domestic use. We may ask ourselves how a Minister of the Crown thinks that he is benefiting the country by advocating the displacement of gas fires and cookers by electric fires and cookers. It is grossly unfair, and I was glad to see that one of our co-partners loyally took his courage in both hands and went to the meeting at the Guildhall and protested as a gasworker against this injustice. What advantage is it to the unemployed of the country if a gas-worker is put out of employment in order that an electrician may be found work?

STRANGE IDEAS OF "FAIR PLAY"

It will be a bad day for Governments and for industry if this precedent is followed and if Ministers of the Crown are engaged in boosting and advertising particular trade interests to the detriment of others. What would be said if the President of the Board of Trade were to stump the country in support of gas at the expense of electricity, or in favour of motors as against railways? And yet this is what is being done with regard to electricity, and what we in the gas industry are apparently expected to put up with in silence.

Not long ago the Minister of Transport, in speaking at a public meeting, called attention to the way the gas industry fought, and apparently he thought he was making the "amende honorable" in so doing, very much as if a warrior, after beating down an opponent by unfair means, called upon his followers to admire the fortitude and fighting qualities of the man he was trying to destroy. No! these testimonies as to our fortitude and courage in being prepared to perish in the last ditch are not our idea of fair play. The unfortunate part of it is that the injustice does not end there, as the example set by a Minister of the Crown is followed by local authorities owning electricity undertakings where, taking heart, no doubt, from the lead given them, they do everything in their power to prevent the tenants of their housing estates from using gas.

MUNICIPAL COERCION

Here are a few examples of this:—

1. A Corporation in the Eastern Counties recently laid it down as a condition before permitting the gas company to supply a large housing estate that gas should not be used for lighting or fires.

2. The occupiers of 27 out of 28 Council houses in one case and of 67 out of 70 in another case asked to be allowed to use gas for illumination or heating, and in each case the local authority refused to comply with their request.

3. The following letter was recently addressed to the tenants of Council houses by the clerk of a Corporation in the North of England:—

"It has been brought to the notice of the Corporation that the gas company have been canvassing tenants of the Corporation houses with a view to having gas installed."

"I am, therefore, instructed to inform you that, by the terms of your tenancy, you are not entitled to agree to the gas company installing gas in your premises without the previous consent, in writing, of your landlord, the Corporation."

"In no circumstances, therefore, must you permit gas to be installed in your premises. If this is done, it will be regarded as a breach of the conditions of your tenancy, and the Council will be compelled to serve notice to quit and take steps to obtain possession of your house."

4. In a part of our own district the local council concerned, who are the landlords, went so far as to ensure that the gas pipes which had been installed in the houses should not be used for a gas supply for any purpose by taking the extreme step of filling these pipes with liquid cement.

IS THIS A FREE COUNTRY?

We rub our eyes and wonder if we really live in a free country. This conduct is all so un-British. It is a breach of two principles to which we have laid claim with pride in this country—first, liberty of the subject, and, second, unbiased

administration of their districts by the local authorities—and strong steps ought to be taken to prevent its continuance. If a private landlord of a house were to attempt to act in such a way he would be considered a tyrant. Why, therefore, is such action condoned when done by a municipality which should show an example of fairness to all the traders in the town? On the other hand, when one reads of all this activity on the part of this particular Minister, one begins to wonder whether an element of doubt is creeping into the minds of those responsible as to whether the electricity scheme is going to be the financial success promised? Will the Government be called upon ultimately to implement the guarantee they have given? Might not this account for some of the desperate remedies adopted, and for the abnormal activity of the Minister of Transport at the present time?

OBSOLETE STATUTORY FETTERS

There is another matter on which I desire to say a few words—namely, the dilatoriness of Government Departments in dealing with new legislation urgently required by statutory industries. We in the gas industry, as everyone knows, carry on our business under certain general Acts of Parliament. These general Acts of Parliament can really be regarded as the minutes of a superior Board of Directors. The principal provisions under which we work date as far back as 1847, when gas was a monopoly. To-day, as you are all aware, it is not a monopoly. It is face to face with acute competition not only from electricity but also from oil, and yet we are still fettered in many respects by the operation of out-of-date Acts of Parliament.

It is true that Parliament gave us some relief in 1920, and again in 1929, but delay after delay is encountered when we endeavour to get the industry put upon a proper basis. The Government National Fuel and Power Committee recommended in 1928 that certain alterations should be made in the general law governing gas undertakings, and this was recommended even more strongly by the Government Area Gas Supply Committee which reported last year. For some time we have been agitating to obtain amending legislation to give us the freedom already accorded to our electrical rivals, but so far all we know is that a Committee is being established to consider the matter. We are thankful, however, for small mercies, and I would, therefore, urge that the Committee should get to work at the earliest possible date and that legislation should immediately follow.

DISHEARTENING DELAYS

These delays are most disheartening and very serious for the industry. A year is a long time in our history, although it may not seem so to the politician. When it is unanimously admitted that there are grievances which ought to be put right, what would be thought of a Board of Directors who postponed carrying out reforms for two or three years because they would not give the time for their discussion? If Parliament assumes the rôle of a directorate and takes upon itself the control of an industry, the least it can do is to give sufficient time to attend to that control, and if things are wrong put them right forthwith. I am not complaining of any particular Department, but I am complaining of the attitude Governments adopt towards statutory industries which in effect they control—namely, one of neglect to pass necessary amending legislation. It is the fashion to-day to say that more industries should be controlled, and my reply is that until we see that control is not another word for delay, the country should be most reluctant to allow any other industries to be put under Government control.

I think I would be lacking in my duty on this occasion if I did not refer to the serious position in which this country finds itself to-day.

It used to be the accepted maxim that one should live within one's income—and I for one believe that this simple maxim is as true to-day as it was in the past. It is important, to my mind, for an individual and for a trading concern, but even more important for a Government, whose expenditure for the most part is unproductive.

FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMICS

This fundamental principle of economics is easily understood by everyone, but is being lost sight of at the present time, and the public mind confused by the different and contradictory theories put forward by financial experts.

Theories with regard to the influence of the gold standard, overproduction and lack of purchasing power are no doubt important subjects for discussion in the present serious industrial condition of this country. We may, however, have to wait a long time for a solution of these questions. In the meantime, what can we do to help ourselves? The principal thing is to give up extravagance and not pursue a policy of spending what we cannot afford. This is a thing that is within our own power and can be put in hand immediately while we are waiting for these world problems of overproduction, distribution of gold, &c., to be discussed and, if possible, settled by the experts.

There was a time, not so long ago, when taxation was considered as only to be resorted to with reluctance, but now no further excuse for taxation is considered necessary than that the object is desirable, whether the country is in the position to afford it or not. Until the country comes to its senses on this subject, to my mind there is no hope for a general improvement in conditions.

Continued on page 648.

COMPANY MEETING—(Gas Light & Coke Co.) continued.**THE COMPANY'S FOUNDATIONS SOUND**

Coming back to our company, I may say that I consider our business sound to the core, and provided the dice are not loaded against us with regard to boosting electricity and that the price of coal is not unduly increased by Government intervention, the prospects of the company are excellent.

Before I close I should like to pay tribute to the good work done during the past year by all ranks in the company. We have an excellent general manager in Mr. Foot and a most capable chief engineer in Mr. Hardie. Our controller of gas sales, who is so well known for the good work he has done for the gas industry, was appointed Chairman of the Government Committee on Education for Salesmanship, and was recently knighted by H.M. the King. I am sure you will wish to join with me in heartily congratulating Sir Francis Goodenough on this honour.

BENEFITS OF CO-PARTNERSHIP

Our co-partnership scheme attained its majority last year, as on July 1st it reached its twenty-first year of existence. Since the inception of the scheme there has been a steady growth of the co-operative spirit in the company, with an increased realization by the co-partners of the value of the common good. I feel certain in my mind that this co-operative spirit has contributed very largely to the success the company has achieved, and I should like to say how gratified I am when, from time to time, I get unsolicited testimony from gas consumers saying how considerate, attentive, and anxious to please our staff is. This, I think, is the best test of the working of the co-partnership ideal in the company.

It is, indeed, no longer a question of taking things easily and waiting for business to come. It is a struggle all the time. For that purpose we are continuing to train our staff at Watson House and elsewhere for the strenuous fight that lies before us. I can assure you that no effort will be spared to see that the company's work is well done and that the consumer is given complete satisfaction.

The report and accounts were adopted.

At the subsequent Extraordinary General Meeting, the Chairman explained that the main object of the Bill was to take over the Southend-on-Sea and Brentwood Gas Companies' areas, which were promising and capable of satisfactory development.

The Bill also proposed to give the Company power to invest a certain amount of money in concerns closely allied to their business.

THE BASIC PRICE

He added: Perhaps the most interesting section of the Bill is the one in which we propose to adopt what is called the Basic Price principle—a method which Parliament has already agreed to in the case of the South Metropolitan Gas Company and other London and Provincial Companies. The adoption of the principle will be to the advantage of the Company as well as to the consumer.

The resolution was adopted that the Bill be approved.

WHERE TO STAY.**REFORMED INNS.**

A SK FOR DESCRIPTIVE LIST (2d., post free) of 170 INNS AND HOTELS managed by the PEOPLE'S REFRESHMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION, LTD.
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APPOINTMENTS VACANT.**BARNETT FELLOWSHIP.**

THE Barnett Memorial Fellowship Trustees will, on July 1st, 1931, make an appointment to a Barnett Fellowship for the year beginning October 1st, 1931.

The emoluments of the Fellowship are £275 a year.

The Fellow must be a graduate of a British University and will be required to undertake teaching or research, or both, in social or economic science in or in connection with a British or North American University, and to reside for a certain period in an industrial community in Great Britain or the United States in such a manner as to associate him with the members of the community and to familiarise him with the conditions of working-class life.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Trustees, Mr. J. J. Mallon, Toynbee Hall, 28, Commercial Street, London, E.I.

SCHOOL OF KING HENRY VIII, COVENTRY.

A HEADMASTER will be required for September term, 1931. He must be under 45 years of age, a graduate of some University in the United Kingdom, and not hold any other office or appointment. The School is recognised by the Board of Education.

The salary will be £800 per annum, rising by annual increments of £20 to £1,000 per annum. There is a house provided, on which the Governors pay rates and taxes, but for which the Headmaster pays £75 per annum rent to the Governors.

The number of boys now in the School is 200. There are no boarders.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. CHARLES B. ODELL, Clerk to the Governors, 55, Hertford Street, Coventry.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE BOARD propose to appoint two H.M. INSPECTORS (WOMEN) of Physical Exercises to take up duty next autumn. Preference will be given to candidates not under 20 years of age who have taken a full course of training in the Swedish System, and have had experience as Organisers of Physical Training, or in some post carrying responsibility for the training of teachers in Physical Training, or special experience in some other branch of physical education.

Applications must be made on the prescribed form and must reach the Board not later than Wednesday, March 4th, 1931.

Copies of the prescribed form, together with particulars as to salary and conditions of service, can be obtained on application in writing to the Secretary, Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Persons who have already submitted applications for appointment as Inspectors under the Board need not renew their applications.

**UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.
FACULTY OF COMMERCE.****DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.
READERSHIP IN ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

THE COUNCIL invites applications for the Readership in Accounting and Administration in the Department of Commerce vacant at the end of the present Session. Stipend, £800 per annum.

Applications (six copies), accompanied by testimonials or such other credentials as candidates may desire to submit should be sent, on or before April 20th, 1931, to the undersigned, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

C. G. BURTON, Secretary.

The University,
Edmund Street,
Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The Senate invite applications for the University Chair of Philosophy, tenable at King's College. Salary, £1,000 a year. Applications (12 copies) must be received not later than first post on May 7th, 1931, by the Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.1, from whom further particulars may be obtained.



